ATHLON SPORTS
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COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF ALL 125 FBS TEAMS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2013 NATIONAL EDITION

The Athlon TOP 10

1. ALABAMA
2. OHIO STATE
3. OREGON
4. GEORGIA
5. SOUTH CAROLINA
6. CLEMSON
7. STANFORD
8. NOTRE DAME
9. TEXAS A&M
10. LOUISVILLE

ALABAMA QB
AJ McCARRON

CLEMSON QB
TAJH BOYD

TEXAS A&M QB
JOHNNY MANZIEL

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HEAD of THE CLASS

South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, whose hair-raising hit on Michigan running back Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl was the most electrifying moment of bowl season, could make history by becoming the first defensive player since Charles Woodson in 1997 to win the Heisman Trophy. Even if he comes up short in the Heisman sweepstakes, Clowney is on the short list of college football's best players.

Photo by C.J. Driggers

EDITOR'S LETTER

We did the unthinkable last year: We picked a team from outside the SEC as preseason No. 1. We had LSU No. 2 and Alabama No. 3, but we went out West for the top spot, picking the USC Trojans. (Yes, the same USC team that ended the season with a 7–6 record).

Well, we've learned our lesson. It took us about 10 seconds to decide which team would be No. 1 in 2013: The Alabama Crimson Tide. Despite the loss of key personnel on both sides of the ball — did you watch the NFL Draft? — Alabama is still loaded with elite talent. The offense, which has been very good in recent years, has the chance to be great in 2013. The Tide will still run the ball with success, but watch out for the passing attack. AJ McCarron, who threw 30 touchdowns and only three interceptions last year, is poised to put up even better numbers thanks to one of the nation's best sets of wide receivers. Alabama has fielded a top-five defense in each of the last five seasons, and there is no reason to believe things will be any different this fall. One more note on the Tide: The schedule is not too taxing. Sure, there is an intriguing opener with Virginia Tech in Atlanta, but other than the trip to Texas A&M and the home date with LSU, there's nothing overly daunting.

There was also a consensus in the predictions meeting about our No. 2 team. Fresh off an undefeated season in his debut at Ohio State, Urban Meyer should have the Buckeyes in position to play for their first national title since the 2007 season. This is far from a perfect team — there are some concerns on the defensive line and in the secondary — but Ohio State should score a ton of points.

From that point, our meeting became far more interesting. After much debate, we decided that Oregon — even without Chip Kelly calling the plays — would be No. 3. From there, we turned to the SEC East. There was a brief discussion about Florida, but the real decision came down to Georgia vs. South Carolina. There is a lot to like about both teams, but in the end, the Bulldogs' prowess on offense was the deciding factor. With Aaron Murray throwing to a deep and talented receiving corps, and Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall running behind a veteran offensive line, Georgia will have no trouble scoring points in 2013. South Carolina will be strong on defense and should run the ball well, but we are a bit concerned about the lack of proven playmakers on offense. (But not that concerned: We still picked the Gamecocks fifth in the nation!)

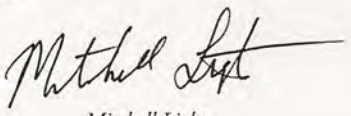
Clemson leads the rest of our top 10, followed by Stanford, Notre Dame, Texas A&M and Louisville.

It's always scary to pick Clemson so high, but the Tigers seems to be shedding their label as chronic underachievers. Dabo Swinney's club is loaded on offense and should be just good enough on D to remain in the national title hunt.

You might think that's a bit low for Texas A&M, but the Aggies will have to navigate their second season in the SEC with a bull's-eye on their back. It will interesting to see if SEC defensive coordinators are a bit more prepared for Johnny Manziel & Co. — and even if they are prepared, can they do anything about it?

Well, that's a quick look at our thought process on our top 10. We'd love to hear what you think about our predictions (be nice!). Email us at editor@athlonsports.com or hit us up on Twitter, @athlonsports.

Enjoy the season.



Mitchell Light
Executive Editor

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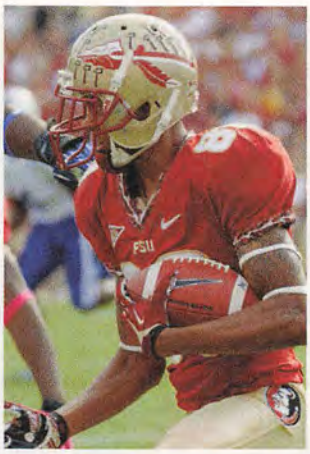


2013

ATHLON AWARDS

They're the teams within the team — those cohesive little units bound together by their shared responsibilities within the larger team context.

Whether it's the offensive linemen firing off time after time into those familiar blocking sleds, or the defensive linemen drilling repeatedly on how to shed blockers, or the defensive backs breaking on ball after ball — these teams in miniature hone their tasks on the practice field until those tasks become second nature.

Whether or not these units function as one can make the difference between winning and losing, and a single unit can carry a team to New Year's Day — or beyond.

It's entirely fitting, then, for us to honor the best of the best at each position with our 13th annual Athlon Awards.

1. TEXAS A&M

Johnny Manziel turned in one of the top seasons by a freshman in college football history, throwing for 3,706 yards and 26 scores and rushing for 1,410 yards and 21 touchdowns. He tossed only six picks in SEC contests. Manziel averaged 373.4 yards of total offense per game in conference play and ranked first nationally in that category overall. The sophomore may not repeat last season's totals, but he should be in contention again for the Heisman Trophy.

TOP QB UNITS

2. OHIO STATE After throwing for 2,039 yards and 15 touchdowns and rushing for 1,271 yards and 13 scores last season, Braxton Miller is poised for even bigger things in 2013. The junior has one of the nation's top offensive lines along with a handful of talented skill players at his disposal. After carrying Ohio State to a 12–0 mark last year, Miller should be one of the frontrunners to win the coveted Heisman Trophy in 2013.

3. CLEMSON Chad Morris and Tajh Boyd have been the perfect pairing at Clemson. Since Morris' arrival in 2011, the Tigers have averaged 37.1 points per game, while Boyd earned first-team All-ACC honors in back-to-back seasons. Boyd passed for 7,724 yards and 69 scores over the last two years and showed increased mobility in 2012 with 514 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. With a loaded group of receivers, Boyd could have the best statistical season of his career.

4. ALABAMA AJ McCarron has a chance to finish his career as one of the most productive quarterbacks of the BCS era. The senior already has two national titles as a starter and is coming off a standout junior campaign. McCarron passed for 2,933 yards last year and tossed only three interceptions on 314 attempts. Alabama's offensive line must be rebuilt, but the receiving corps is stocked with talent. Blake Sims, Phillip Ely and Alec Morris will compete for the backup role.

5. OREGON The Ducks will miss former coach Chip Kelly, but with Marcus Mariota back at quarterback, the offense will remain one of the best in the nation this year. As a redshirt freshman last season, Mariota threw for 2,677 yards and 32 touchdowns and rushed for 752 yards and five scores. With a deep group of receivers and Mariota returning in 2013, new coach Mark Helfrich plans to turn Oregon into more of an aerial show this year.

6. LOUISVILLE // 7. GEORGIA // 8. NEBRASKA
9. UCLA // 10. FRESNO STATE

ATHLONSPORTS.COM
Who are the 50 Best QBs of the BCS era?
ATHLONSPORTS.COM/50QBS

TOP RB UNITS

2. ALABAMA Eddie Lacy is gone, but the Crimson Tide still have a deep stable of options. Leading the way is junior T.J. Yeldon, who rushed for 1,108 yards and 12 scores as a true freshman. Yeldon is an Athlon Sports second-team preseason All-American. At 6'1", 201 pounds, sophomore Kenyan Drake is a change-of-pace option, but he will face competition for carries from touted freshman Derrick Henry, junior Jalston Fowler and sophomore Dee Hart.

3. TEXAS The Longhorns return three running backs who have rushed for at least 500 yards in a season during their careers. Sophomore Johnathan Gray is the headliner after rushing for 701 yards as a true freshman in 2012. Joe Bergeron scored 16 touchdowns last season, and Malcolm Brown (742 yards in 2011) returns to full strength after missing most of 2012 due to injuries.

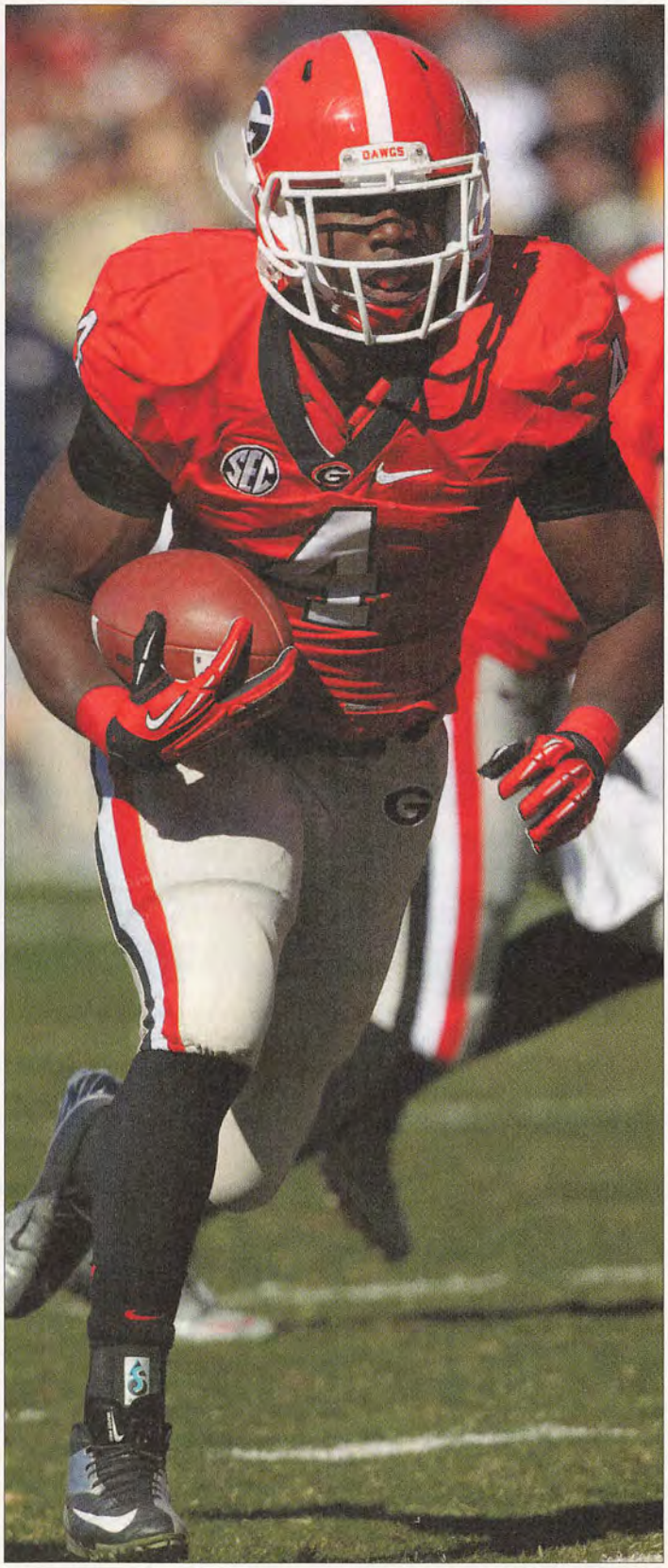
4. OREGON Despite losing Kenjon Barner, the Ducks are in good shape at running back. De'Anthony Thomas is one of college football's most explosive players and is expected to handle more carries in 2013. Byron Marshall is also due for an increased workload after averaging 5.1 yards per carry in 2012. True freshman Thomas Tyner is one of the top running backs in the 2013 signing class and will be difficult for new Oregon coach Mark Helfrich to keep on the sidelines.

5. TEXAS A&M The Aggies likely won't have a 1,000-yard rusher in 2013, but this unit has assembled plenty of depth thanks to the arrival of transfers Tra Carson (Oregon) and Brandon Williams (Oklahoma). Senior Ben Malena rushed for 808 yards and eight scores last season and has surprising power for a 5'8" running back. Talented sophomore Trey Williams is due for a bigger role in the offense after rushing for 376 yards and five touchdowns in 2012.

6. WISCONSIN // 7. BAYLOR
8. OHIO STATE // 9. NEBRASKA
10. ARIZONA

1. GEORGIA

The Bulldogs lack depth in the backfield, but the Todd Gurley-Keith Marshall duo is the best in college football. Gurley and Marshall combined for 2,144 of Georgia's 2,556 rushing yards last year and scored 19 touchdowns. Gurley ranked second in the SEC by averaging 98.2 rushing yards per game in conference play. Both players could rush for 1,000 yards in 2013, as Georgia's coaching staff plans to get Marshall more involved in the offense this year.



Texas A&M: Chris Covatta; Georgia: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

TOP WR/TE UNITS

1. USC

Whether it's Max Wittek or Cody Kessler, USC's new starting quarterback has plenty of weapons. Junior **Marqise Lee** ranked second nationally in receptions per game (9.1) and receiving yards per game (132.4) last season, winning the Biletnikoff Award as college football's top receiver. Sophomore Nelson Agholor averaged 17.9 yards per catch in 2012 and is due for a breakout year. Victor Blackwell and Darreus Rogers were touted recruits and are ready to step into prominent roles. Xavier Grimble and Randall Telfer could form the nation's top tight end duo.

2. ALABAMA The Crimson Tide receivers may not have huge stats, but it's hard to find a group that's deeper than the one in Tuscaloosa. Amari Cooper is the top target for AJ McCarron after catching 59 passes as a true freshman. Kevin Norwood (29 catches in 2012), Christion Jones and Kenny Bell are back as key contributors. But the name to watch this fall is redshirt freshman Chris Black. Freshman O.J. Howard could be Alabama's answer at tight end.

3. GEORGIA With Malcolm Mitchell moving back to receiver on a full-time basis, along with the return of Michael Bennett from a knee injury, quarterback Aaron Murray will have one of the nation's top receiving corps at his disposal. Chris Conley averaged 17.1 yards per catch last year, and his big-play ability will help ease the loss of Tavarres King. Tight end Arthur Lynch is a rising star after grabbing 24 receptions for 431 yards and three touchdowns in 2012.

4. OKLAHOMA STATE The emergence of Josh Stewart, along with a healthy Tracy Moore (45 receptions in 2011) should propel Oklahoma State's receiving corps into a spot among the top five nationally. Stewart averaged only 12 yards per catch but had 101 receptions last year. Charlie Moore is back after averaging 15.5 yards per reception in 2012, and hybrid receiver/tight end Blake Jackson could be featured more after catching 30 passes last year.

5. FLORIDA STATE The Seminoles have four receivers with at least 25 receptions or more returning in 2013, and tight end Nick O'Leary is back after a solid sophomore campaign (21 receptions). Rashad Greene was the go-to target for Florida State last year, catching 57 passes for 741 yards. Kelvin Benjamin caught 30 passes as a redshirt freshman, and at 6'5", has the potential to be a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses.

6. CLEMSON // 7. LOUISVILLE
8. OKLAHOMA // 9. FRESNO STATE
10. WASHINGTON

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TOP OL UNITS

2. TENNESSEE The Volunteers' offensive line has morphed from a weakness into one of the nation's best in just a few seasons. Antonio Richardson — a likely first-round draft pick in 2014 — and Ja'Wuan James could be the best set of tackles in the nation. Guard Zach Fulton is back after 11 starts in 2012, and James Stone should be one of the top centers in the SEC this year. Tennessee allowed just eight sacks in 2012.

3. OHIO STATE The Buckeyes regarded their offensive line as a weak link going into 2012, but this unit finished the year as the best in the Big Ten. Four starters are back, including All-Big Ten selections Andrew Norwell and Jack Mewhort. Center Corey Linsley is an Athlon Sports preseason first-team All-Big Ten pick, and guard Marcus Hall returns after starting all 12 games last year. Taylor Decker is expected to replace Reid Fragel at right tackle.

4. OKLAHOMA Despite losing left tackle Lane Johnson, the Sooners are in great shape in the trenches. Center Gabe Ikard is an Athlon Sports preseason first-team All-American, and tackle Daryl Williams and guard Adam Shead could be among the best in the Big 12 at their positions. Bronson Irwin, with 13 starts in 2012, returns at right guard, and Tyrus Thompson (five starts in 2012) steps into the lineup at right tackle. Oklahoma allowed just six sacks in Big 12 games last season.

5. KANSAS STATE The Wildcats return all five starters from a unit that allowed only 14 sacks last year. B.J. Finney is one of the top returning centers in the nation, and tackle Cornelius Lucas is a preseason first-team All-Big 12 selection. Boston Stiverson and Keenan Taylor man the guard positions, while Cody Whitehair slides from left guard to right tackle.

6. TEXAS A&M // 7. MIAMI (FLA.)
8. ALABAMA // 9. CINCINNATI
10. FLORIDA STATE

1. STANFORD

With four starters returning and two touted recruits stepping into key roles, the Cardinal's physical, run-first approach isn't going anywhere. Stanford's line allowed only 1.4 sacks per game last year and paved the way for rushers to average 4.4 yards per carry. **David Yankey** could be the premier guard in college football, while Cameron Fleming and Kevin Danser should be all-conference selections. Khalil Wilkes is expected to slide to center to replace Sam Schwartzstein. Massive sophomore Andrus Peat is set to start at left tackle.

TOP DL UNITS

1. SOUTH CAROLINA

The Gamecocks lose end Devin Taylor and tackle Byron Jerideau, but there's not much concern over this unit. End Jadeveon Clowney is a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate and should add to his 21 career sacks and 33.5 tackles for a loss in 2013. Chaz Sutton is due for an increased role after recording five sacks last year, while Kelcy Quarles, Gerald Dixon and J.T. Surratt round out the interior. The Gamecocks allowed only seven rushing scores and registered 3.3 sacks per game in 2012.

2. NOTRE DAME Kapron Lewis-Moore must be replaced, but the Fighting Irish feature two first-team Athlon Sports preseason All-Americans in end Stephon Tuitt and tackle Louis Nix III. Tuitt had 12 sacks last year. Sheldon Day replaces Lewis-Moore at end after recording 23 tackles and two sacks in his freshman season. The Fighting Irish need Nix and Tuitt to stay healthy, as there's not an abundance of depth. Notre Dame finished 11th nationally against the run and allowed only four rushing touchdowns last season.

3. ARIZONA STATE The Sun Devils need to get tougher against the run, but depth and talent aren't an issue. Tackle Will Sutton is the reigning Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year and is projected to be an NFL first-round pick in 2014. Jaxon Hood joins Sutton on the interior after a standout freshman season. Junior Onyeali and Davon Coleman give the Sun Devils two pass-rush threats in the 3-4 scheme. Junior college recruits Marcus Hardison and Demetrius Cherry are expected to provide depth.

4. FLORIDA Defense carried the Gators to an 11–2 mark last season, and even though some key pieces depart, Florida should be strong in the trenches. Sophomores Jonathan Bullard and Dante Fowler start on the edges with seniors Dominique Easley and Damien Jacobs anchoring the interior. Easley is an Athlon Sports first-team preseason All-SEC selection. End/linebacker Ronald Powell, a No. 1 recruit out of high school, is back after sitting out 2012 due to a knee injury.

5. USC New coordinator Clancy Pendergast has plenty of talent to install his new 5-2 scheme. End Morgan Breslin tied for the Pac-12 lead in sacks last year, and the return of Devon Kennard from injury adds another potential double-digit sack threat to the line. Leonard Williams, George Uko and Antwan Woods form a talented interior, with Williams capable of earning All-America honors in 2013.

6. VIRGINIA TECH // 7. OREGON // 8. TCU
9. STANFORD // 10. OHIO STATE

TOP LB UNITS

1. STANFORD

The Cardinal will miss Chase Thomas, but three starters return, including seniors Shayne Skov and Trent Murphy. Skov led the Stanford defense with 81 tackles last year, while Murphy recorded 10 sacks. A.J. Tarpley joins Skov on the interior and is poised for his best season on The Farm. Senior Blake Lueders or James Vaughters will replace Thomas on the outside. Jarek Lancaster and Kevin Anderson will contribute as top reserves.

2. ALABAMA If Stanford has the No. 1 linebacker unit, then Alabama is essentially 1b. C.J. Mosley is one of the top linebackers in the nation and is joined by Trey DePriest on the interior. Mosley and DePriest combined for 166 tackles last year. Adrian Hubbard and Xzavier Dickson combined for 10.5 sacks in 2012, and the coaching staff hopes this duo can provide a more consistent pass rush in 2013. Denzel Devall, Tana Patrick and Reuben Foster are valuable reserves.

3. UCLA Anthony Barr was shifted from offense to defense last year, and the move paid huge dividends for the Bruins. Barr recorded 13.5 sacks and 21.5 tackles for a loss in 2012, and his athleticism off the edge is a matchup nightmare for offensive lines. Eric Kendricks led all Pac-12 defenders with 149 stops last season and is joined on the interior by Jordan Zumwalt. Sophomore Aaron Wallace is the frontrunner to replace Damien Holmes at the other outside spot.

4. MICHIGAN STATE With three starters departing from the defensive line, the Spartans will depend on the linebackers to keep the rush defense near the top of the Big Ten. Max Bullough enters his third year as Michigan State's middle linebacker. The senior led the team with 111 stops last season. Junior Taiwan Jones is set for a breakout season after recording 5.5 tackles for a loss and 38 tackles as a reserve last year. Strong-side linebacker Denicos Allen is a three-year starter.

5. LSU Thanks to the emergence of Kevin Minter and Lamin Barrow last season, the Tigers emerged as one of the SEC's top linebacker units. Minter left for the NFL, but Barrow is back after recording 104 stops. Sophomore Kwon Alexander and freshman Kendell Beckwith are expected to start, with Deion Jones, Tajh Jones and Lamar Louis all expected to play key parts in the rotation.

6. NOTRE DAME // 7. FLORIDA STATE
8. USC // 9. BYU // 10. CLEMSON

TOP DB UNITS

Stanford: Peter Brouillet; Florida: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

1. FLORIDA

Safeties Matt Elam and Josh Evans are gone, but Loucheiz Purifoy and **Marcus Roberson,** along with the arrival of top recruit Vernon Hargreaves III, could give Florida the nation's top cornerback trio. Jaylen Watkins recorded 39 tackles and three picks at cornerback last year, but he will shift to safety in 2013. The Gators ranked second nationally in pass efficiency defense last year and allowed only seven passing touchdowns while grabbing 20 INTs.

2. OHIO STATE The Buckeyes ranked a disappointing 76th nationally against the pass last year. However, there was improvement late in the year, and three potential All-Big Ten selections are back for 2013. Bradley Roby could be the top cornerback in the nation after breaking up 17 passes and recording two picks last year. Doran Grant or Tyvis Powell will replace Travis Howard at cornerback. C.J. Barnett and Christian Bryant are experienced and dependable safeties.

3. OREGON Considering the offenses in the Pac-12, it's a testament to the strength of Oregon's secondary to finish 15th nationally in pass efficiency defense. Cornerback Ifo Ekpre-Olomu was all over the field for the Ducks last season, recording 63 tackles and intercepting four passes. Despite not having an interception, Terrance Mitchell was just as effective on the other side. Brian Jackson, Erick Dargan and Avery Patterson are a steady trio at safety.

4. ALABAMA Even with Dee Milliner and Robert Lester departing, the Crimson Tide remain a top-five secondary for 2013. Deion Belue was solid in his first season from the junior college ranks, but sophomore Geno Smith might be Alabama's top cornerback by season's end. Ha Ha Clinton-Dix impressed in his first year as a starter and has the talent to be the Crimson Tide's next star in the secondary. Former top recruit Landon Collins will join Clinton-Dix as a starter at safety.

5. STANFORD With one of the best front sevens in college football, Stanford's secondary is often overlooked. However, that may change in 2013. Three starters return from a unit that ranked 25th nationally in pass efficiency defense. Ed Reynolds and Jordan Richards form one of the top safety combinations in the nation. Cornerback Alex Carter garnered honorable mention All-Pac-12 honors as a true freshman, and Usua Amanam thrives in the nickel role.

6. TCU // 7. FLORIDA STATE // 8. VIRGINIA TECH // 9. MICHIGAN STATE // 10. NOTRE DAME

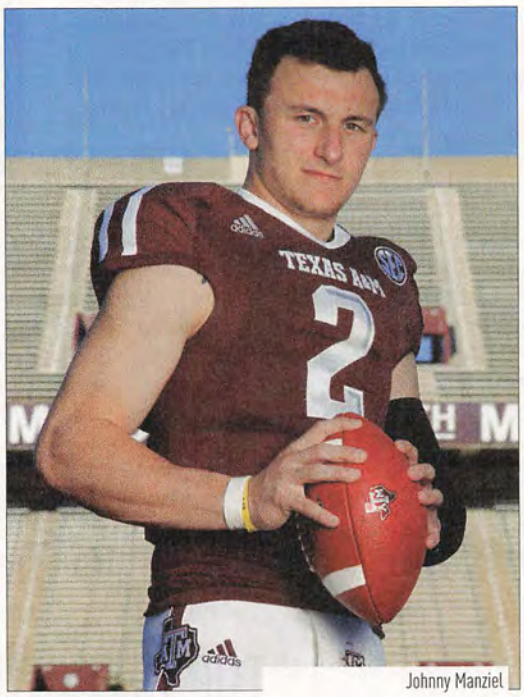
ATHLON SPORTS

2013 PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	JOHNNY MANZIEL	6-1	200	So.	Texas A&M
RB	KA'DEEM CAREY	5-10	196	Jr.	Arizona
RB	TODD GURLEY	6-1	218	So.	Georgia
WR	MARQISE LEE	6-0	195	Jr.	USC
WR	SAMMY WATKINS	6-1	205	Jr.	Clemson
TE	AUSTIN SEFERIAN-JENKINS	6-6	266	Jr.	Washington
C	GABE IKARD	6-3	298	Sr.	Oklahoma
G	CYRIL RICHARDSON	6-5	335	Sr.	Baylor
G	DAVID YANKEY	6-5	311	Sr.	Stanford
T	TAYLOR LEWAN	6-8	308	Sr.	Michigan
T	JAKE MATTHEWS	6-5	305	Sr.	Texas A&M
AP	DE'ANTHONY THOMAS	5-9	176	Jr.	Oregon



Johnny Manziel

DEFENSE

DE	JADEVEON CLOWNEY	6-6	272	Jr.	South Carolina
DE	STEPHON TUITT	6-6	303	Jr.	Notre Dame
DT	LOUIS NIX III	6-3	326	Sr.	Notre Dame
DT	WILL SUTTON	6-1	288	Sr.	Arizona State
LB	C.J. MOSLEY	6-2	232	Sr.	Alabama
LB	RYAN SHAZIER	6-2	222	Jr.	Ohio State
LB	KYLE VAN NOY	6-3	235	Sr.	BYU
CB	IFO EKPRE-OLOMU	5-10	190	Jr.	Oregon
CB	BRADLEY ROBY	5-11	193	Jr.	Ohio State
S	HA HA CLINTON-DIX	6-1	208	Jr.	Alabama
S	ED REYNOLDS	6-2	205	Jr.	Stanford

SPECIALISTS

K	CAIRO SANTOS	5-8	160	Sr.	Tulane
P	KYLE CHRISTY	6-3	193	Jr.	Florida
KR	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	194	So.	Miami
PR	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern

Jadeveon Clowney

Manziel: Chris Covatt; Clowney: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports;

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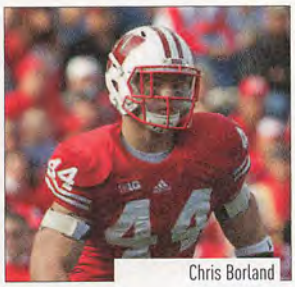
ATHLON SPORTS

2013 PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Braxton Miller

Scott Crichton

Tajh Boyd


Chris Borland

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	BRAXTON MILLER	6-2	215	Jr.	Ohio State
RB	LACHE SEASTRUNK	5-10	210	Jr.	Baylor
RB	T.J. YELDON	6-2	218	So.	Alabama
WR	AMARI COOPER	6-1	208	Jr.	Alabama
WR	JORDAN MATTHEWS	6-3	205	Sr.	Vanderbilt
TE	ARTHUR LYNCH	6-5	258	Sr.	Georgia
C	TRAVIS SWANSON	6-5	314	Sr.	Arkansas
G	SPENCER LONG	6-4	315	Sr.	Nebraska
G	XAVIER SU'A-FILO	6-3	304	Jr.	UCLA
T	CYRUS KOUANDJIO	6-6	310	Jr.	Alabama
T	ANTONIO RICHARDSON	6-6	332	Jr.	Tennessee
RP	KAIN COLTER	6-0	190	Sr.	Northwestern

DEFENSE

DE	SCOTT CRICHTON	6-3	260	Jr.	Oregon State
DE	DEVONTE FIELDS	6-4	240	So.	TCU
DT	TIMMY JERNIGAN	6-2	298	Jr.	Florida State
DT	ANTHONY JOHNSON	6-3	304	Jr.	LSU
LB	ANTHONY BARR	6-4	245	Sr.	UCLA
LB	TRENT MURPHY	6-6	261	Sr.	Stanford
LB	SHAYNE SKOV	6-3	244	Sr.	Stanford
CB	AARON COLVIN	6-0	181	Sr.	Oklahoma
CB	JASON VERRETT	5-10	176	Sr.	TCU
S	DION BAILEY	6-0	210	Jr.	USC
S	TY ZIMMERMAN	6-1	204	Sr.	Kansas State

SPECIALISTS

K	JEFF BUDZIEN	5-11	165	Sr.	Northwestern
P	KIRBY VAN DER CAMP	6-4	211	Sr.	Iowa State
KR	MARQISE LEE	6-0	195	Jr.	USC
PR	MARCUS MURPHY	5-9	185	Jr.	Missouri

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	TAJH BOYD	6-1	225	Sr.	Clemson
RB	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	194	So.	Miami
RB	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern
WR	DAVANTE ADAMS	6-2	200	So.	Fresno State
WR	MIKE EVANS	6-5	225	So.	Texas A&M
TE	CHRIS COYLE	6-3	222	Sr.	Arizona State
C	HRONISS GRASU	6-3	294	Jr.	Oregon
G	GABE JACKSON	6-4	335	Sr.	Mississippi State
G	ANTHONY STEEN	6-3	309	Sr.	Alabama
T	JAMES HURST	6-7	305	Sr.	North Carolina
T	ZACK MARTIN	6-4	304	Sr.	Notre Dame
RP	DRI ARCHER	5-8	175	Sr.	Kent State

DEFENSE

DE	MORGAN BRESLIN	6-2	250	Sr.	USC
DE	AARON LYNCH	6-6	244	So.	South Florida
DT	CALVIN BARNETT	6-2	300	Sr.	Oklahoma State
DT	LEONARD WILLIAMS	6-5	270	So.	USC
LB	CHRIS BORLAND	5-11	248	Sr.	Wisconsin
LB	MAX BULLOUGH	6-3	242	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	SHAQ THOMPSON	6-2	225	So.	Washington
CB	QUANDRE DIGGS	5-10	200	Jr.	Texas
CB	ANDRE HAL	6-0	184	Sr.	Vanderbilt
S	CRAIG LOSTON	6-2	205	Sr.	LSU
S	HAKEEM SMITH	6-1	187	Sr.	Louisville

SPECIALISTS

K	CHRIS BOSWELL	6-2	200	Sr.	Rice
P	MIKE SADLER	6-0	185	Jr.	Michigan State
KR	JUSTIN GILBERT	6-0	200	Sr.	Oklahoma State
PR	TRAMAINE THOMPSON	5-8	167	Sr.	Kansas State

Miller: Joe Robbins; Borland: Brian Ebner ;Crichton: Craig Mitchelldyer; Boyd: Wade Payne

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COACHING CAROUSEL

31 Programs changed hands in another busy offseason. Here's how Athlon Sports ranks the new hires.

by Mitch Light

1. BOBBY PETRINO Western Kentucky

Previous Job: Out of coaching in 2012

PROS: Petrino is a proven winner at the collegiate level. He went 41–9 in four seasons at Louisville and 34–17 in four seasons at Arkansas. Five of his eight teams have led their respective league in total offense; the other three teams ranked second (Arkansas, 2010), third (Arkansas, 2009) and fourth (Arkansas, 2008).

CONS: There's a reason that Petrino was not employed in 2012. And there was a reason that schools like Tennessee, Kentucky and Auburn didn't hire him in the offseason. He's got plenty of baggage, from his messy departures at Louisville and with the Atlanta Falcons to his off-the-field issues at Arkansas.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Petrino was considered untouchable by many schools. Western Kentucky was not one of them. Two days after Willie Taggart bolted for South Florida, the Hilltoppers introduced the Montana native as their next head coach. Petrino has vowed that he is a changed man, and he learned from his mistakes at Arkansas. That may or may not be true. But one thing is certain: He is a great coach who will win a bunch of games at Western Kentucky — even though he might not be at the school for very long.

GRADE: A

2. WILLIE TAGGART South Florida

Previous Job: Head coach, Western Kentucky

PROS: Taggart is one of the most highly regarded young coaches in college football. He struggled early in his three-year tenure as the school continued its transition to the FBS ranks, but Western Kentucky went 14–6 in his final 20 games — highlighted by a win over Kentucky in Lexington. Taggart is a top-flight recruiter and a native of the Tampa area.

CONS: The Hilltoppers closed the 2012 season on a down note, losing five of their last seven games, and they were the favorite in four of those five losses.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Taggart appears to be the perfect hire at South Florida. He's young. He's an outstanding recruiter. And he's from the area. Seems like a great fit. But Skip Holtz also seemed to be a great fit, and he was fired after winning only five Big East games in three years. Now it's Taggart's turn to run the show, and he appears to give the school its best chance yet to live up to its potential.

GRADE: A

3. GARY ANDERSEN Wisconsin

Previous Job: Head coach, Utah State

PROS: Andersen did a tremendous job elevating Utah State's program in his four years at the school. After going 4–8 in each of his first two seasons, he guided the Aggies to a 7–6 record in 2011 and an 11–2 mark in '12. Utah State's two losses last season came by three pints at BYU and two points at Wisconsin. In '11, four of the Aggies' six losses came by four points or less. Prior to Utah State, he enjoyed a strong four-year run as the defensive coordinator at Utah.

CONS: Andersen will be out of his geographic element at Wisconsin. He has coached in the Western part of the U.S. for all but one season (he was the offensive coordinator at Southeastern Louisiana in 1988).

FINAL ANALYSIS: Andersen has been a hidden gem at Utah State. The Aggies won 18 games in his final two seasons — the best two-year stretch in school history — and made a rapid climb up the WAC food chain. Andersen, with his defensive background and reliance on the running game — the Aggies ranked sixth in the nation in rushing last season — is the ideal fit in Madison. **GRADE: A**

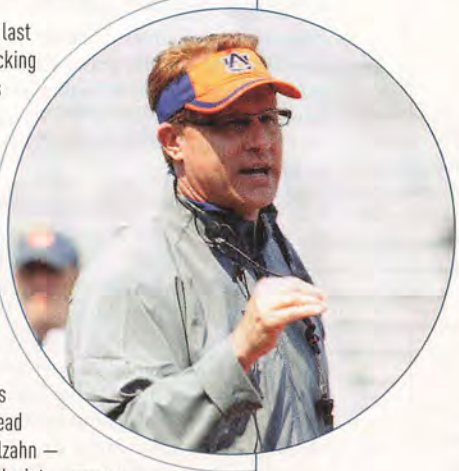
4. GUS MALZAHN Auburn

Previous Job: Head coach, Arkansas State

PROS: Malzahn is regarded as one of the top offensive minds in the game. He was the offensive coordinator at Auburn from 2009-11 and helped the Tigers to the BCS National Championship in 2010. In his only season as a head coach, he led Arkansas State the outright Sun Belt title with a 7–1 league record and an overall mark of 9–3 (he did not coach the bowl game).

CONS: Malzahn only has one year of head coaching experience and none at an AQ conference school. Critics will point out that Auburn's offense struggled after Cam Newton left Auburn. Those critics need to look at Malzahn's pre-Newton credentials as an offensive coordinator.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Prior to last season, the only thing lacking on Malzahn's résumé was head coaching experience. That is no longer the case. One year does not make him a proven head coach, but it's clear he did a solid job serving as the CEO of an FBS program. You never quite know how someone will handle all of the demands that come with being a head coach in the SEC, but Malzahn — from a pure football standpoint — was an outstanding hire. **GRADE: A**



5. KLIFF KINGSBURY Texas Tech

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Texas A&M

PROS: Kingsbury is one of the top young offensive coaches in college football. In his three seasons as a coordinator, his teams ranked third (Texas A&M, 2012), first (Houston, '11) and 11th (Houston, '10) in the nation in total offense. Kingsbury is a Texas Tech graduate who starred at quarterback for the Red Raiders in the early years of the Mike Leach era.

CONS: Kingsbury is very young — he will be 34 in August — and has only been in coaching for five seasons.

FINAL ANALYSIS: His lack of experience is a bit of a concern, but Kingsbury is the perfect fit at Texas Tech. He immediately galvanized a fan base that has been fractured since the controversial dismissal of Leach following the 2009 season. His first recruiting class wasn't highly ranked — No. 8 in the Big 12 by Rivals — but Kingsbury should be able to attract top-flight skill position players to operate his offense. Hiring Kingsbury was an easy decision for athletic director Kirby Hocutt. **GRADE: A**

6. TRENT MILES Georgia State

Previous Job: Head coach, Indiana State

PROS: It was off the national radar, but Miles did an incredible job at Indiana State. His overall record is not good — 20–36 in five seasons — but he inherited the worst FCS program in the nation in 2008. Indiana State went 1–32 in the three seasons prior to Miles' arrival, and the '07 Sycamores were outgained by an average 257 yards per game and outscored by 38 points per game. Miles struggled early, but went 19–14 (13–11 in the Missouri Valley) in his final three seasons.

CONS: None

FINAL ANALYSIS: Kudos to Georgia State athletic director Cheryl Levick for looking past Miles' poor overall record. It's clear this guy is a very good coach. Georgia State obviously lacks tradition and has almost no fan base, but the school is right in the middle of one of the most fertile recruiting areas in the country. Miles will win plenty of games in the Sun Belt. **GRADE: A**

Petrino: AP Photo/Daily News, Nathan Morgan; Taggart: AP Photo/Nati Harnik
Kingsbury: AP Photo/LM Otero; Malzahn: Todd J. Van Emst

7. BRET BIELEMA Arkansas

Previous Job: Head coach, Wisconsin

PROS: Bielema had a fantastic record in his seven seasons as the head coach at Wisconsin. He went 68–24 overall and 37–19 in the Big Ten and only had a losing conference record once. His offenses were consistently among the best in the Big Ten; only twice, in his first season and last season, did the Badgers fail to finish in the top five in the league in total offense. His ability to recruit at Arkansas has been questioned, but he did sign one of the nation's top running back prospects in 2013, Alex Collins.

CONS: Bielema rarely made a splash in recruiting during his tenure at Wisconsin. Over the last five years, the Badgers' average recruiting rank (according to Rivals) was 53rd nationally and ninth in the Big Ten.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Give Bielema credit for winning on a consistent basis in the Big Ten without elite talent throughout the roster, but it's very, very difficult to survive in the SEC unless you are bringing in top-15 recruiting classes. Bielema has proven to be an outstanding head coach, but there have been plenty of quality coaches who have lost a lot of games in the SEC. GRADE: A-

8. SONNY DYKES California

Previous Job: Head coach, Louisiana Tech

PROS: Dykes went 22–15 overall and 14–7 in the WAC in three seasons at Louisiana Tech. The .667 winning percentage in league play was by far the best three-year stretch for the school during its 12 years in the WAC. Dykes has experience in the Pac-12 (Arizona) and runs an exciting offense.

CONS: Dykes' teams at Louisiana Tech did not excel on defense, ranking 116th or worse in total defense in both 2010 and '12.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Jeff Tedford won a bunch of games at Cal, but it was time for a change. Dykes appears to be an ideal fit in a league that features some of the top offensive coaches in the college game. There will, however, be pressure on his defensive staff to keep things under control on that side of the ball. The new coordinator, Andy Buh, doesn't have the strongest résumé. GRADE: A-

9. DAVE DOEREN NC State

Previous Job: Head coach, Northern Illinois

PROS: Doeren won at a high level in two seasons at Northern Illinois, with a 23–4 overall record and a 15–1 mark in the MAC. The Huskies outgained their MAC opponents by an average of 119 yards per game during the regular season in his two years. Prior to becoming the head coach at NIU, Doeren had a successful stint on Wisconsin's staff. The Badgers ranked in the top four of the Big Ten in total defense in each of his three seasons as the coordinator.

CONS: It can be argued that Doeren did nothing more than maintain what Jerry Kill built at NIU. He never had to win with his own players forming the core of the team.

FINAL ANALYSIS: NC State athletic director Debbie Yow deserves credit for moving quickly. Doeren was hired on Dec. 1, just one day after he led Northern Illinois to the MAC title. He appears to be a good fit for a program that can't seem to get over the hump in the ACC. NC State has not had back-to-back winning records in the ACC since 1991-92. GRADE: A-

10. MIKE MACINTYRE Colorado

Previous Job: Head coach, San Jose State

PROS: MacIntyre oversaw one of the most impressive reclamation projects in college football in recent years. After winning only one game in his first season at San Jose State, MacIntyre guided the school to a 5–7 record in 2011 and an 11–2 mark in '12. He won with a passing attack that ranked sixth nationally with 332.7 yards per game and a defense that allowed only 21.3 points per game (24th). He's been a defensive coordinator in the ACC (at Duke) and spent four years as an assistant in the NFL.

CONS: MacIntyre has never coached in the Pac-12.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Jon Embree, the Buffs' previous coach, had never been anything but a position coach on any level. MacIntyre is far more qualified, and he will make this program competitive in the Pac-12 in the next three years. GRADE: A-

11. TOMMY TUBERVILLE Cincinnati

Previous Job: Head coach, Texas Tech

PROS: Tuberville is a proven head coach who won at a high level in the SEC during his 10 years at Auburn. He is one of only six coaches who have ever had eight straight winning records in SEC play.

CONS: While he won consistently at Auburn, Tuberville struggled at Texas Tech. He inherited a program that had only had one non-winning conference season since 1991 (3–5 in 2000) yet went 3–5, 2–7 and 4–5 in the Big 12 in his three seasons in Lubbock.

FINAL ANALYSIS: In one of the most puzzling moves of the offseason, Tuberville left a job in the Big 12 to take over a Cincinnati program that has yet to find a home in a power conference in the new college football landscape. And while Tuberville seems to be an odd geographic fit at Cincinnati, and his tenure at Texas Tech was far from inspiring, the guy knows how to coach. He will keep Cincinnati competitive. GRADE: A-

12. BUTCH JONES Tennessee

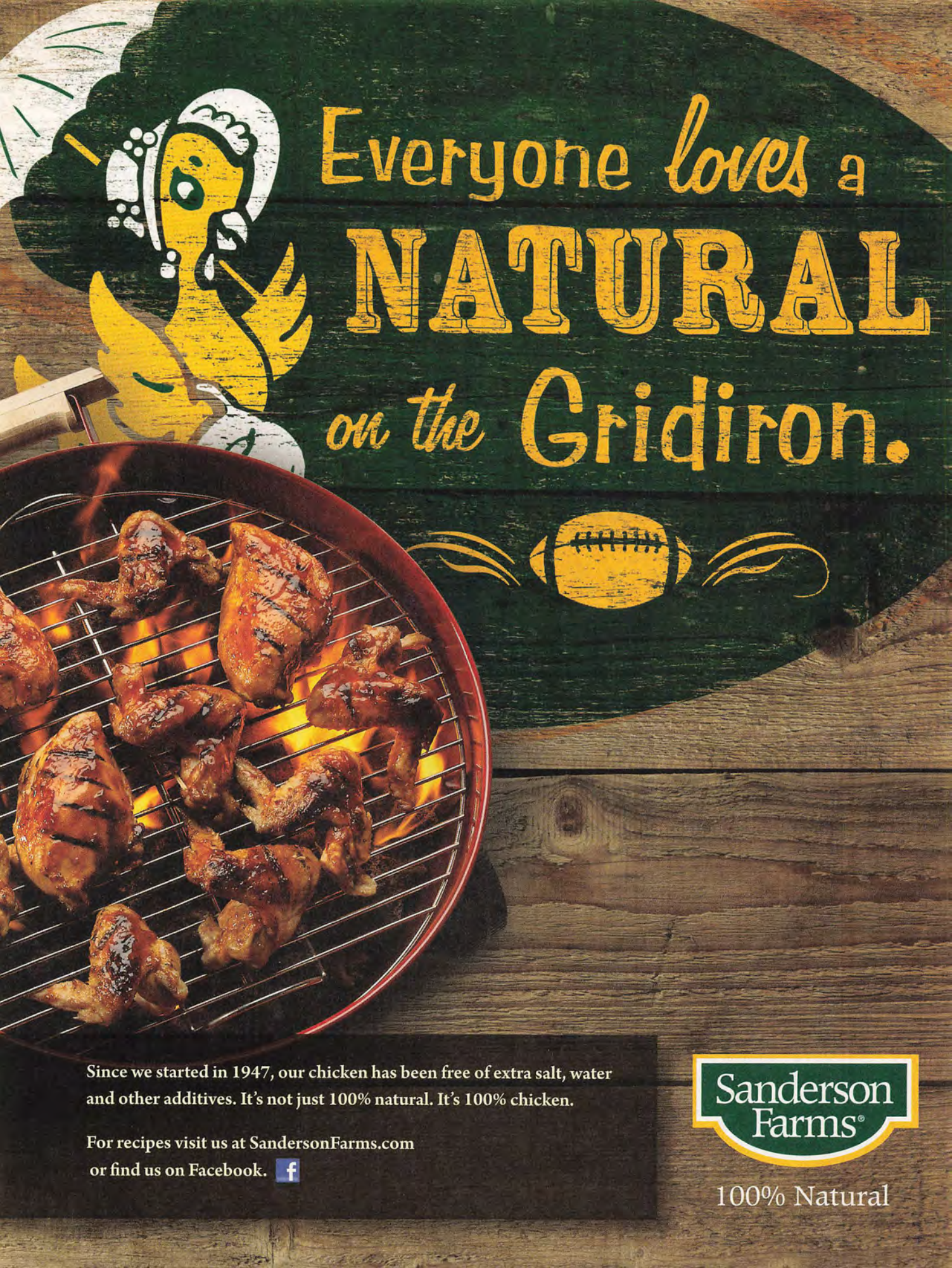
Previous Job: Head coach, Cincinnati

PROS: Jones has enjoyed success at two schools, with a 27–13 record in three seasons at Central Michigan and a 23–14 record in three seasons at Cincinnati. He had a winning record in five of his six years as a head coach and has either won or shared a division/conference title in four of six seasons.

CONS: Jones inherited a winning program from Brian Kelly in both of his two previous stops as a head coach. He has been asked to maintain — not rebuild.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Tennessee attempted to lure Charlie Strong from Louisville in early December. When that failed, athletic director Dave Hart quickly turned his attention to Jones, who had reportedly been close to accepting the job at Colorado. Jones isn't the big-name hire that many Tennessee fans were craving, but he is a solid coach with outstanding credentials. He is far more qualified for the position than his predecessor, Derek Dooley, was at the time of his hire. GRADE: B+

Walt Beazley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13. DARRELL HAZELL Purdue

Previous job: Head coach, Kent State

PROS: Hazell has worked for some highly regarded head coaches (Don Nehlen at West Virginia, Greg Schiano at Rutgers and Jim Tressel at Ohio State) and did very well in his only job as a head coach. Hazell guided Kent State to a 16–10 record in two seasons, highlighted by a school-record 11 wins in 2012.

CONS: None. It's tough to find many holes in Hazell's résumé.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Danny Hope's four years at Purdue were far from a disaster, but he never won more than seven games and never had a winning Big Ten season. Now, it's Hazell's turn. The talent level isn't very high; only once in the past five years has Purdue's recruiting class been ranked higher than eighth in the Big Ten. Hazell did well with inferior talent at Kent State, but climbing the food chain in the Big Ten will prove to be more difficult than in the MAC. This is a good hire, but don't expect a quick turnaround. GRADE: B+

14. MARK STOOPS Kentucky

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Florida State

PROS: Stoops did a tremendous job during his three years as the defensive coordinator at Florida State. He inherited a group that ranked 108th in total defense in 2009. In his first season, in '10, FSU climbed to 42nd nationally in total defense and improved to fourth in '11 and second in '12. He is an outstanding recruiter and has strong ties in Florida and Ohio, two key states for Kentucky.

CONS: Stoops has never been a head coach on any level.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Stoops was as qualified as any coordinator in the nation to take the next step and become a head coach. He immediately upgraded the recruiting at Kentucky and has injected energy into a program that had slipped to the very bottom of the food chain in the SEC. He still needs to prove he can get the job done on Saturdays, but Stoops appears to be the right guy at the right time for Kentucky. GRADE: B+

15. BRYAN HARSIN Arkansas State

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Texas

PROS: Harsin spent five seasons (2006-10) working under Chris Petersen, one of the most respected head coaches in college football. His offenses at Boise State ranked in the top 20 in the nation in each of his five seasons as the coordinator.

CONS: Harsin was lured to Texas in 2011 to inject some life into the Longhorns' attack. Didn't happen. Texas ranked 54th in the nation in total offense in 2011 and 40th in '12 despite having more than its share of 4- and 5-star players on the roster.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Arkansas State is hoping to make it 3-for-3 in the head coaching hiring game. Both Hugh Freeze and Gus Malzahn led the Red Wolves to a Sun Belt title in their only seasons at the school. Harsin's job won't be as easy. A-State suffered significant personnel losses on both sides of the ball and will be hard-pressed to win a third-straight league title. He should do a solid job, but unlike his predecessors, Harsin will be in Jonesboro for more than one season. GRADE: B

16. TODD MONKEN Southern Miss

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Oklahoma State

PROS: Monken boasts a quality résumé that includes stops as a passing game coordinator at Oklahoma State and LSU, a wide receivers and quarterbacks coach in the NFL and an offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State. He inherited a great situation at Oklahoma State, but still did an outstanding job in his two seasons running the Cowboys' offense. The Pokes ranked third in the nation in total offense in 2011 and fourth last season, despite being forced to play three quarterbacks due to injury.

CONS: Monken has never been a head coach on any level.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This is a great situation for Monken. Expectations are low — Southern Miss went an unthinkable 0–12 in Ellis Johnson's lone season in Hattiesburg — but there is still some decent talent on the roster. Don't forget: The Golden Eagles went 12–2 in 2011 under former coach Larry Fedora, and there is no reason this program should not enjoy success in the reconfigured — and weaker — Conference USA. GRADE: B

17. MARK HELFRICH Oregon

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Oregon

PROS: He didn't call the plays on Saturdays, but Helfrich served as the offensive coordinator of one of the nation's most explosive attacks the past three seasons. He is an Oregon native who no doubt has dreamed of serving as the head coach of the Ducks.

CONS: Helfrich's stint as the offensive coordinator at Colorado did not go well. The Buffaloes ranked 12th, 10th and 12th in total offense in the Big 12 in his three seasons (2006-08) on Dan Hawkins' staff.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Helfrich has been handed the keys to one of the elite programs in college football. The Ducks will continue to run the same offense that has averaged 47.5 points over the last three seasons, but don't be surprised if the transition isn't quite as seamless as some expect. Chip Kelly is one of the elite offensive minds in all of football. It's dangerous to assume that Helfrich, who struggled at Colorado, will be able to keep this offense at the same level. GRADE: B

18. STEVE ADDAZIO Boston College

Previous Job: Head coach, Temple

PROS: Addazio did a solid job in his two seasons at Temple, guiding the Owls to a 9–4 record in 2011 (while in the MAC) and a 4–7 mark in '12 (while in the Big East). He is a passionate coach who will inject some energy into what had become a stale program at Boston College.

CONS: Addazio is regarded as an outstanding recruiter, but his two classes at Temple were not highly ranked — 107th in 2011 and 76th in '12 after the move to the Big East. Also, his last team at Temple struggled down the stretch, losing its last five Big East games by an average of 25 points.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Addazio fits the profile of what Boston College needs in a coach — he's got a ton of energy and has ties in the Northeast from his days as an assistant at Syracuse ('95-98) and the head coach at Temple. It's tough to really glean too much from his tenure at Temple because the school was making the transition from the MAC to the Big East. This is a good hire. GRADE: B

Stoops: AP Photo/James Crisp; Carey: AP Photo/J Pat Carter
Kugler: AP Photo/The El Paso Times, Rudy Gutierrez

19. MATT RHULE Temple

Previous Job: Assistant offensive line coach, New York Giants

PROS: Rhule is a Pennsylvania native who spent six years on the staff at Temple (in several different capacities) before leaving for one season in the NFL. He was on Al Golden's initial staff that transformed Temple from arguably the worst program in the nation into a team that won nine games in 2009 and eight games in 2010.

CONS: Ruhle has no experience as a head coach on any level.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Passed over the job in 2010 following Al Golden's departure for Miami, Ruhle was the obvious choice when Steve Addazio was hired at Boston College. With the right coach, Temple should be able to be competitive in the reconfigured Big East. Rhule appears to be the right coach. GRADE: B

20. MATT WELLS Utah State

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Utah State

PROS: Wells is a Utah State alum who joined Gary Andersen's staff in 2011. The Aggies are 18–8 overall and 11–2 in league games since his arrival. He is young — he will be 40 when the 2013 season begins — but has 17 years of experience at five different FBS schools.

CONS: Wells has never been a head coach and has only been a coordinator for one season.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Wells was the right choice to continue the positive momentum built by Andersen over the last four seasons. The level of competition will be ramped up beginning next season as the school moves from the WAC to the Mountain West, but Utah State will be a factor in its new league. GRADE: B

21. BRIAN POLIAN Nevada

Previous Job: Special teams coach, Texas A&M

PROS: Polian has worked under some of the game's top coaches in recent years, serving as the special teams coach at Stanford under Jim Harbaugh and at Texas A&M under Kevin Sumlin. He is young (38) but has been around the game his entire life, as the son of former NFL executive Bill Polian.

CONS: Polian has never been a head coach or coordinator on any level.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Nevada will make the transition from the 66-year-old Chris Ault, a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, to a 38-year-old who will be a first-time head coach. Polian is a good recruiter who has surrounded himself with a quality coaching staff. He was able to retain offensive coordinator Nick Rolovich, who was on the verge of taking the same position with Temple. This was a high-risk, high-reward hire by Nevada. GRADE: B

22. RON CARAGHER San Jose State

Previous job: Head coach, University of San Diego

PROS: Caragher won big at the FCS level, guiding San Diego to an overall record of 44–22 and a 34–13 mark in the Pioneer League in six seasons at the school. He is a California native who has spent all but four of his 17 years as a full-time coach in the state.

CONS: Caragher hasn't coached in the FBS ranks since 2006, when he was the running backs coach at Kentucky.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Caragher has been fortunate. In 2007, he inherited a San Diego program from Jim Harbaugh that had won a total of 22 games in the two previous seasons. Now, he is taking over at San Jose State, which won 11 games in the final year of the Mike MacIntyre era. With a move from the WAC to the more difficult Mountain West, Caragher's first season figures to be a challenge. He should be a good fit for the long term, but this is not an easy job. GRADE: B

23. SEAN KUGLER UTEP

Previous Job: Offensive line coach, Pittsburgh Steelers

PROS: Kugler played at UTEP in the late 1980s and was a senior on Bob Stull's final team that won a school-record 10 games. He has eight years of experience as an assistant at UTEP (1993-2000) and spent 10 of the last 11 years in the NFL.

CONS: Kugler has been out of collegiate coaching since 2006, when he was the offensive line coach at Boise State.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This is a solid hire for a school that underachieved in the past decade. Mike Price went 16–8 in his first two seasons (2004-05) at the school but averaged only 4.8 wins over his final seven years. UTEP will have a chance to make a move in the new C-USA West that no longer includes Houston and SMU. GRADE: B

RANKING THE NEW COACHES FROM 2012

1. Urban Meyer Ohio State
2. Kevin Sumlin Texas A&M
3. Bill O'Brien Penn State
4. Hugh Freeze Ole Miss
5. Justin Fuente Memphis
6. Gus Malzahn Arkansas State
7. Tim DeRuyter Fresno State
8. Jim Mora UCLA
9. Bob Davie New Mexico
10. Todd Graham Arizona State
11. Rich Rodriguez Arizona
12. Larry Fedora North Carolina
13. Kyle Flood Rutgers
14. Paul Chryst Pittsburgh
15. Matt Campbell Toledo
16. Carl Pelini Florida Atlantic
17. Jim McElwain Colorado State
18. Curtis Johnson Tulane
19. Garrick McGee UAB
20. Tony Levine Houston
21. Mike Leach Washington State
22. Terry Bowden Akron
23. Charley Molnar Massachusetts
24. Charlie Weis Kansas
25. Norm Chow Hawaii
26. John L. Smith Arkansas
27. Tim Beckman Illinois
28. Ellis Johnson Southern Miss

24. ROD CAREY Northern Illinois

Previous job: Offensive coordinator, Northern Illinois

PROS: Carey shined in his only season as the offensive coordinator at Northern Illinois. The Huskies led the MAC and ranked 20th nationally in total offense, averaging 469.6 yards per game. He was a key member of the coaching staff that guided NIU to 23–4 record the past two seasons.

CONS: Carey only has two years of experience as an assistant in the FBS ranks. He was the offensive coordinator in the Division III ranks as recently as 2006.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Carey doesn't have the same type of résumé as his two predecessors — Jerry Kill was a successful head coach on the FCS level, and Dave Doeren was a coordinator at a national power (Wisconsin) — but he is taking over a program that has averaged 11.3 wins over the past three seasons. This is an ideal situation for a first-time head coach. GRADE: B-

25. SKIP HOLTZ Louisiana Tech

Previous Job: Head coach, South Florida

PROS: Holtz had a nice run at another Conference USA school, going 38–27 overall and 28–12 in five seasons at East Carolina (2005-09). He has 13 total years of experience as a head coach.

CONS: Holtz was let go by South Florida in December after three seasons with the Big East school. The Bulls went 8–5 in his first season but slumped to 8–16 overall and 2–12 in the league in his final two seasons.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Holtz was once regarded as one of the bright young minds in the game, but it's difficult to get excited about a coach who had a .238 winning percentage in Big East games. GRADE: C+

26. PAUL PETRINO Idaho

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Arkansas

PROS: Petrino has been a part of some of the top offensive teams in college football during his time on his brother's staff at both Louisville and Arkansas. He is a Montana native who spent three season as an assistant at Idaho from 1992-94 under John L. Smith.

CONS: Petrino has no experience as a head coach, and, despite his many years as an offensive coordinator, he has only been a team's primary play-caller for two years, at Illinois in 2010-11.

FINAL ANALYSIS: In the current landscape, Idaho, a school without a conference, is perhaps the least-desirable FCS coaching job in the country. But the school did a nice job with this hire. After working for his brother for much of the past decade, Petrino is eager for his shot to run his own program, no matter how great the challenges. GRADE: C+

27. SCOTT SHAFER Syracuse

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Syracuse

PROS: Shafer will provide continuity for a program that had built some momentum under previous coach Doug Marrone. He has 12 years of experience as a defensive coordinator, including one season at Stanford (2007) working for Jim Harbaugh.

CONS: While he made a big impact in his first season at Syracuse, Shafer hasn't exactly enjoyed tremendous success as a defensive coordinator. In four seasons at SU, the Orange ranked fifth, second, eighth and fifth in the Big East in total defense. And in 2008, his lone season at Michigan, the Wolverines ranked ninth in the Big Ten in total defense.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Marrone left Syracuse in a tough spot when he left his alma mater to take over the Buffalo Bills on Jan. 6. The coaching carousel had already run its course and most of the desirable candidates had already accepted new positions. It would have been interesting to see if Shafer would have been a strong candidate for the job had Marrone left in December. GRADE: C+

28. PAUL HAYNES Kent State

Previous Job: Defensive coordinator, Arkansas

PROS: Haynes is a Kent State alum who has spent nine of the past 15 years coaching in the state of Ohio, including two at Kent State (1999-2000) and six at Ohio State (2005-11).

CONS: Haynes, who began coaching in college in 1993, had not risen above the level of position coach until taking over as the co-defensive coordinator at Ohio State in 2011 and then defensive coordinator at Arkansas in 2012. The Razorbacks ranked 12th in the SEC in total defense last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Haynes wouldn't have been an overly impressive candidate for a lot of programs, but he is a Kent State alum who is thrilled to be coaching at his alma mater. The program has won 16 games in the past two seasons, the best stretch since the Don James era in the 1970s. The pieces are in place for Haynes to succeed. GRADE: C+

29. P.J. FLECK Western Michigan

Previous Job: Wide receivers coach, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

PROS: Fleck, the youngest coach in the nation (32), will bring some youthful energy to the Western Michigan program. He is a native of the Midwest (Illinois) who played in the MAC at Northern Illinois in the early 2000s. Fleck has worked under two respected head coaches, Jerry Kill at Northern Illinois and Greg Schiano at Rutgers and Tampa Bay.

CONS: Fleck is very, very young and only has six years of experience as a full-time assistant, and none as a coordinator.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Bill Cubit won enough at Western Michigan (51–47 overall, 36–27 MAC) to keep his job for eight years, but he never quite broke through. Twice, the Broncos went 6–2 in the MAC but failed to win the West Division title. Fleck should be able to recruit well, but he must prove that he can be a CEO of an FBS program at a young age. GRADE: C+

30. DOUG MARTIN New Mexico State

Previous Job: Offensive coordinator, Boston College

PROS: Martin has seven years of experience as a head coach (2004-10 at Kent State) and served as the offensive coordinator at New Mexico State in 2011. The Aggies averaged 398.1 yards per game in Martin's one season as the offensive coordinator, the school's best mark since 2007. Martin went 5–7 overall and 4–4 in the MAC in each of his final two seasons.

CONS: Martin has a record of 29–53 as a head coach. That's not very good, no matter how difficult the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS: New Mexico State, a program without a conference, was not in an ideal position to hire a quality head coach. Martin will do little to excite the Aggie faithful, but he is a known commodity who did a solid job raising Kent State's profile in the MAC. GRADE: C

31. RON TURNER FIU

Previous Job: Quarterbacks coach, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

PROS: Turner has nine years of experience as a head coach in college, eight at Illinois (1997-2004) and one at San Jose State (1992).

CONS: Turner, who is 59, has not coached in college since being fired at Illinois in 2004 after going 35–57 overall and 20–44 in the Big Ten. He only had one winning conference season in eight years on the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This is possibly the least-inspiring hire made by any FBS school in recent memory. FIU fired Mario Cristobal, considered to be one of the top young coaches in the game, to bring in a guy who went 24 games under .500 in the Big Ten a decade ago? GRADE: D

AP Photo/Kalamazoo Gazette-MLive Media Group, Matt Gade

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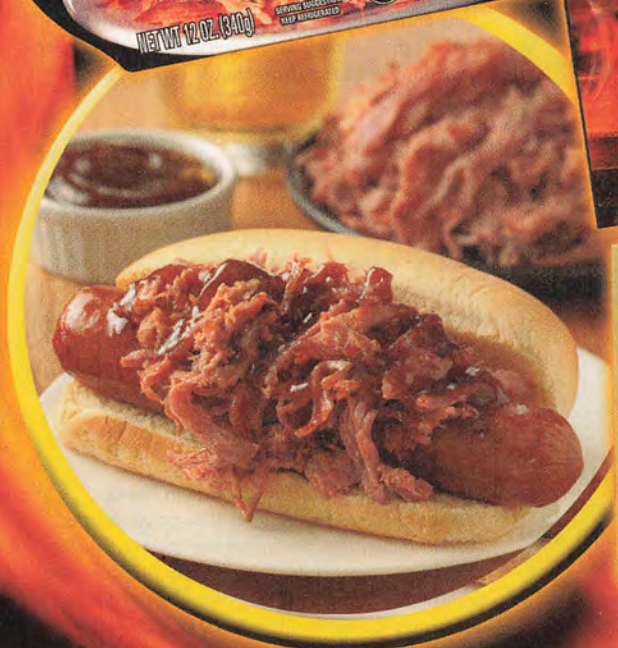

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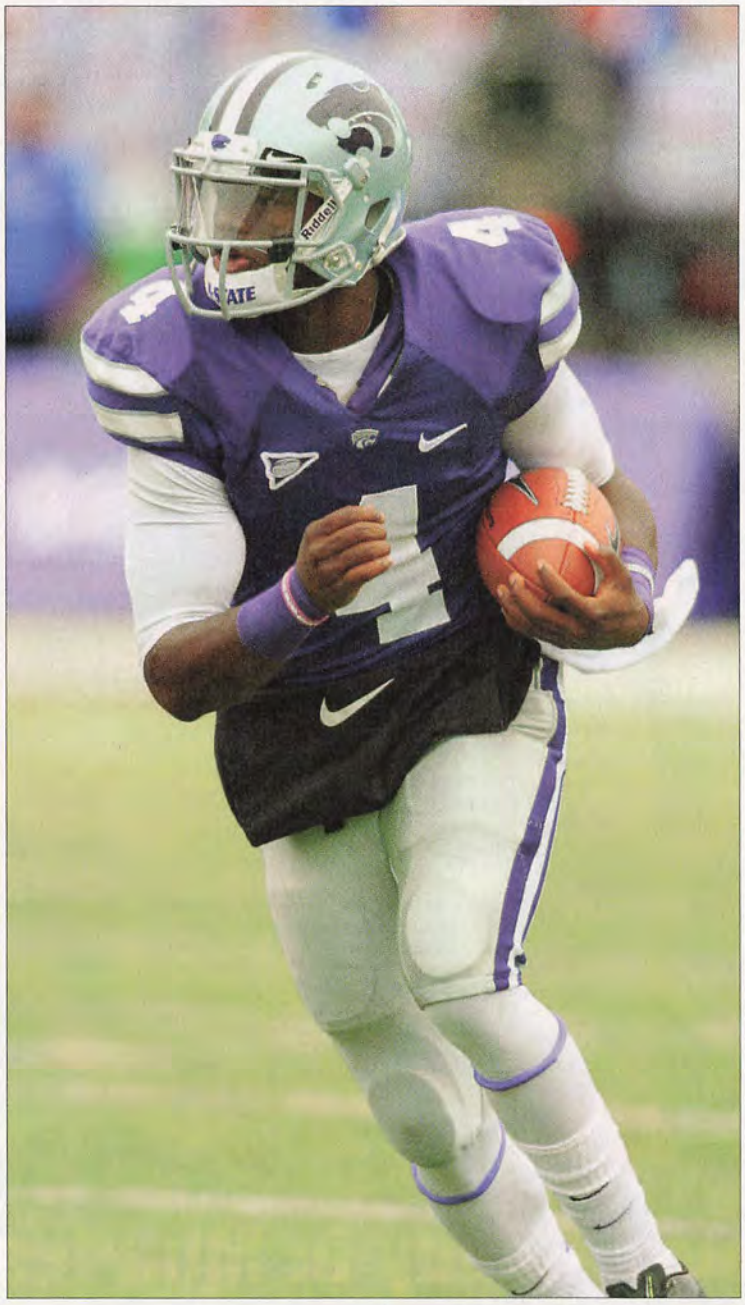
Top 12 Quarterback Battles



ARIZONA

Matt Scott's eligibility expired after the New Mexico Bowl, leaving a wide-open battle for Arizona's job this spring. B.J. Denker served as the backup last season and made one start (Colorado). Denker has the edge in experience, but he will be pushed by junior college transfer and former USC Trojan Jesse Scroggins, redshirt freshman Javelle Allen and true freshman Anu Solomon. **Projected Winner: Denker**

AUBURN

Gus Malzahn's return to Auburn should benefit Kiehl Frazier — who was recruited to the Plains by Malzahn — and Jonathan Wallace, as both quarterbacks struggled in last season's pro-style attack. Frazier and Wallace will be pushed by junior college recruit (and former Georgia defensive back) Nick Marshall and true freshman Jeremy Johnson this fall. Considering that the newcomers won't arrive until the fall, this battle is likely to be decided between Frazier and Wallace. **Projected Winner: Frazier**

CALIFORNIA

The Golden Bears opened spring practice with seven quarterbacks vying for the starting spot. Redshirt freshman Zach Kline, true freshman Jared Goff and junior Austin Hinder finished as the top three options, but none has thrown a pass at the FBS level. Kline ranked as the No. 4 quarterback in the nation by Athlon Sports in the 2012 signing class, while Goff impressed in his first semester on campus. **Projected Winner: Kline**

KANSAS STATE

Despite losing quarterback Collin Klein, Kansas State's offense is still in good shape. The offensive line is among the best in the Big 12, and running back John Hubert is back after rushing for 947 yards last year. Daniel Sams served as Klein's backup in 2012, rushing for 235 yards and three touchdowns in limited work. Battling Sams for the top spot is Jake Waters, who ranked as the top junior college quarterback in the nation, throwing for 3,501 yards at Iowa Western Community College in 2012. **Projected Winner: Sams**

Sams: Tim Umphrey; Stave: Joe Kotoblek

MICHIGAN STATE
The Spartans sorely missed Kirk Cousins last year, as the offense averaged only 20 points per game and ranked ninth in the Big Ten with 359.3 yards per game. Andrew Maxwell started all 13 games last season but completed only 52.5 percent of his throws and averaged just 200.5 yards per game. Connor Cook gave Michigan State's offense a spark in the bowl game and is in the mix, along with Tyler O'Connor and true freshman Damion Terry. **Projected Winner: Maxwell**

PENN STATE
Steven Bench, the most experienced quarterback on the roster (with eight attempts) left the program after spring practice, creating a two-way battle to replace Matt McGloin. Junior college transfer Tyler Ferguson and true freshman Christian Hackenberg — the No. 13 recruit in the 2013 Athlon Consensus 100 — will do their best to impress coach Bill O'Brien during the fall. If Hackenberg is as good as advertised, O'Brien won't hesitate to let the freshman play. **Projected Winner: Hackenberg**

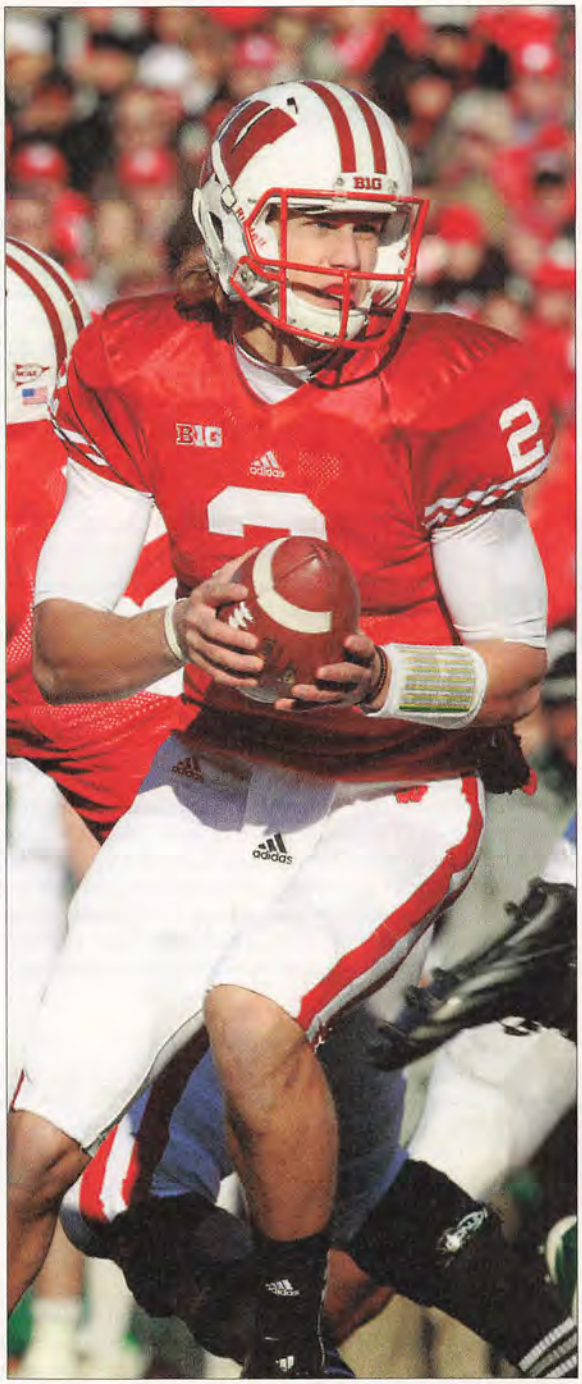
OKLAHOMA
After playing a part-time role the last two seasons, Blake Bell is the favorite to be Oklahoma's No. 1 quarterback in 2013. Bell has rushed for 24 touchdowns in his career but has thrown only 20 passes. While Bell has a lead over redshirt freshman Trevor Knight and sophomore Kendal Thompson, this job is far from settled. Knight had an impressive spring and also brings dual-threat ability to the offense. **Projected Winner: Bell**

OKLAHOMA STATE
Coach Mike Gundy has indicated that Clint Chelf will open the year as the No. 1 quarterback. But this battle could extend into the season. Chelf finished 2012 as the starter, throwing for 13 touchdowns over the final five games. Wes Lunt opened last year as the starter as a true freshman, but injuries kept him out of the lineup for most of the season. Lunt has the option to redshirt in 2013. J.W. Walsh is the best dual-threat option out of the trio and could see snaps in special packages if he's not the starter. **Projected Winner: Chelf**

OREGON STATE
The good news for coach Mike Riley is that the Beavers have two proven starting quarterbacks. The bad news? Neither played well enough last season to secure the top spot. Sean Mannion opened 2012 as Oregon State's No. 1 quarterback, but a knee injury forced him out of action, which opened the door for Cody Vaz. Although Vaz isn't as talented as Mannion, he seems to have the trust of the coaching staff and threw only three picks in 185 attempts. **Projected Winner: Vaz**

USC
Matt Barkley departs after throwing for 12,327 yards in his career, leaving true freshman Max Browne and sophomores Max Wittek and Cody Kessler competing for the No. 1 job. After Barkley suffered a shoulder injury against UCLA, Wittek started the final two games and completed just 28-of-60 passes. Kessler completed both of his attempts in mop-up duty last year, while Browne is one of the top quarterbacks in the 2013 signing class. Kessler had the better spring, but Wittek is the preferred choice of the coaching staff. **Projected Winner: Wittek**

WEST VIRGINIA
Junior Paul Millard (34 pass attempts) is battling redshirt freshman Ford Childress for the right to replace Geno Smith. Millard backed up Smith the last two years and most of his playing time was in mop-up duty. Childress is the son of a former NFL lineman and was ranked as the No. 18 quarterback in the nation by Athlon Sports in the 2012 signing class. Millard has more experience, but Childress might have more upside. This will be a battle. **Projected Winner: Millard**



WISCONSIN
Curt Phillips stabilized Wisconsin's quarterback play last season after an injury sidelined Joel Stave and Danny O'Brien was benched due to ineffectiveness. But Phillips could be the odd man out this season, as Stave turned in a solid spring, and junior college recruit Tanner McEvoy is a good fit for new coach Gary Andersen's offense. Stave threw for 1,104 yards and six scores last season but doesn't offer anything on the ground. McEvoy is a dual-threat who could thrive in coordinator Andy Ludwig's attack.
Projected Winner: Stave

Ranking the **New Coaches** from 2012

1. URBAN MEYER, OHIO STATE

Before: 6–7 (3–5); After: 12–0 (8–0)

The Buckeyes weren't quite as dominant as their 8–0 record in the Big Ten suggests — they outgained their eight league opponents by only 80.1 yards per game, the fifth-best margin in the conference — but it's hard to argue with perfection. The six-game improvement was the best by a first-year coach.

2. KEVIN SUMLIN, TEXAS A&M

Before: 7–6 (4–5 Big 12); After: 11–2 (6–2 SEC)

No program has seen its national profile change more in one year than Texas A&M. Johnny Manziel deserves a ton of the credit, but Sumlin did a tremendous job changing the culture in College Station. Don't be surprised if the Aggies win a national title in the next few years.

3. BILL O'BRIEN, PENN STATE

Before: 9–4 (6–2); After: 8–4 (6–2)

The record was basically the same, but that doesn't come close to telling the story of O'Brien's first season in State College. The first-time head coach did a tremendous job as the CEO of a program dealing with unprecedented sanctions. He did a great job on the field as well. The Nittany Lions increased their scoring by nearly 10 points per game despite losing their top running back (Silas Redd) and top wide receiver (Justin Brown), who both transferred over the summer.

4. HUGH FREEZE, OLE MISS

Before: 2–10 (0–8); After: 7–6 (3–5)

Freeze's biggest victories came on National Signing Day — the Rebels' recruiting class is ranked No. 6 by Athlon Sports — but he also did a tremendous job on the field. Ole Miss went from zero wins to three wins in the SEC, and lost two games (Texas A&M, Vanderbilt) in which it held a double-digit second-half lead.

5. JUSTIN FUENTE, MEMPHIS

Before 2–10 (1–7); After: 4–8 (4–4)

Fuente did an excellent job picking up the pieces after the failed Larry Porter experiment. The Tigers ended the season on a three-game winning streak and won four games in Conference USA — twice as many as they won in the three previous seasons combined.

6. GUS MALZAHN, ARKANSAS STATE

Before: 10–3 (8–0); After: 10–3 (7–1)

Malzahn's lone season in Jonesboro produced a Sun Belt title and the school's first bowl win as an FBS member. The Red Wolves lost three of their first five but ended the year on an eight-game winning streak.

7. TIM DERUYTER, FRESNO STATE

Before: 4–9 (3–4 WAC); After: 9–4 (7–1 MWC)

Fresno State very quietly had an outstanding first season under DeRuyter. The Bulldogs went 7–1 in their first year in the Mountain West — a step up in competition from the WAC — and were vastly improved on both offense and defense.

8. JIM MORA, UCLA

Before: 6–8 (5–4); After: 9–5 (6–3)

UCLA ended the year on a three-game losing streak (with two of the losses coming to Stanford), but Mora's first season was a big success. The Bruins won five straight in the Pac-12 — their longest such streak since 2005 — and beat rival USC for the first time since 2006.

9. BOB DAVIE, NEW MEXICO

Before: 1–11 (1–6); After: 4–9 (1–7)

New Mexico won only one conference game in 2012, but the Lobos were significantly better in Davie's first season. Want some evidence? The Lobos' scoring differential last fall was minus-4.4 points per game; in '11, it was minus-29.7 points per game.

10. TODD GRAHAM, ARIZONA STATE

Before: 6–7 (4–5); After: 8–5 (5–4)

Graham guided Arizona State to its first winning season since 2007 and its first bowl victory since 2005. The Sun Devils were dramatically improved on defense — they climbed 64 spots in the national rankings — and capped the regular season with a 41–34 win at rival Arizona.

Meyer: Joe Robbins; Sumlin: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Freeze: Paul Levy; Mora: Peter Brouillet; Rodriguez: Mike Moore; Chryst: Bruce Schwartzman; Weis: Ric Fogel

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Heisman Contenders

1. BRAXTON MILLER
QB, Ohio State

As expected, Miller thrived in Urban Meyer's attack as a sophomore. He was one of three players nationally to top 2,000 yards passing and 1,200 yards rushing. Expect even better numbers in '13.

2. Johnny Manziel, QB, Texas A&M
Can the defending Heisman winner replicate his obscene numbers from 2012? Not likely, but he is still the most exciting — and productive — player in college football.

3. Jadeveon Clowney, DE, South Carolina
He's undoubtedly the best player in college football, but will Clowney make enough highlight-reel plays to become the second defensive player to win the Heisman? Stay tuned.

4. Tajh Boyd, QB, Clemson
Boyd was spectacular as a junior, throwing for 3,896 yards with 36 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. He loses his top target, DeAndre Hopkins, but the talented Sammy Watkins will put up huge numbers.

5. AJ McCarron, QB, Alabama
In two years as a starter, he has thrown for 5,567 yards with 46 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Oh, and he's also won two national championships.

6. Marcus Mariota, QB, Oregon
Mariota proved to be a perfect fit at Oregon, throwing for 2,677 yards and 32 touchdowns and adding 752 yards and five scores on the ground. Cause for concern: Chip Kelly is no longer calling the plays in Eugene.

7. T.J. Yeldon, RB, Alabama
Yeldon topped the 1,000-yard mark as a freshman despite sharing carries with Eddie Lacy. With a more prominent role in the Crimson Tide's attack, he could challenge Mark Ingram's single-season school record of 1,658 yards.

8. Todd Gurley, RB, Georgia
Gurley ended his fantastic freshman season (1,385 yards, 17 TDs) in style, rushing for 122 yards in the SEC title game against Alabama and 125 against Nebraska in the Capital One Bowl.

9. Ka'Deem Carey, RB, Arizona
If Carey can stay out of trouble and avoid any injuries, he should make a run at 2,000 yards. As a sophomore, he led the nation with 1,929 yards and rushed for 23 touchdowns.

10. Teddy Bridgewater, QB, Louisville
Bridgewater will put up gaudy numbers playing for a team that has a decent chance at an undefeated regular season. That formula will put him in the Heisman chase.

NEXT TIER

11. **De'Anthony Thomas, RB, Oregon** Would be higher up this list if he were guaranteed more touches.
12. **Brett Hundley, QB, UCLA** Threw for 3,740 yards and 29 TDs as a redshirt freshman.
13. **Aaron Murray, QB, Georgia** Needs to limit his interceptions (10 in 2012) to become a legitimate candidate.
14. **Marqise Lee, WR, USC** Led the nation with 118 catches as a sophomore.
15. **Lache Seastrunk, RB, Baylor** Rushed for 831 yards (on an 8.1-yard average) over last six games.
16. **Duke Johnson, RB, Miami** Closed true freshman season with 492 yards rushing in last four games.
17. **Taylor Martinez, QB, Nebraska** Led the Big Ten with 277.9 total yards per game.
18. **Sammy Watkins, WR, Clemson** Poised to rebound as a junior after taking a step back as a sophomore.
19. **Jordan Lynch, QB, Northern Illinois** First player in FBS history to throw for 3,000 and rush for 1,500 yards.
20. **Venric Mark, RB, Northwestern** Rushed for 1,366 yards and averaged 18.7 yards on punt returns.

Joe Robbins

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Top **Transfers**

Drew Allen, QB
Oklahoma to Syracuse
A career backup at Oklahoma — he threw a total of 30 passes in the past three years — Allen will play his final season of eligibility at Syracuse. The 6'5" San Antonio native is the favorite to start for new coach Scott Shafer.

Brian Bobek, C
Ohio State to Minnesota
A former 4-star recruit, Bobek played in two games as a true freshman at Ohio State in 2011. He is expected to start as a junior for the Golden Gophers.

Jeremy Cash, S
Ohio State to Duke
Cash played in five games, mostly on special teams, for Ohio State in 2011. He will have a chance to start right away at Duke, where he will have three seasons of eligibility.

Tra Carson, RB
Oregon to Texas A&M
Carson rushed for 254 yards on 45 carries as a true freshman in 2011, but opted to transfer to seek out more playing time. He will battle holdover Ben Malena and fellow transfer Brandon Williams for carries this fall.

Gerald Christian, TE
Florida to Louisville
Christian teamed with fellow Florida-to-Louisville transfer Robert Clark at Dwyer High School in West Palm Beach, Fla. Christian caught four passes for 72 yards and one touchdown as a sophomore in 2011. He will have two seasons of eligibility.

Robert Clark, WR
Florida to Louisville
Clark played sparingly in his two seasons in Gainesville. The 5'9", 182-pound junior should be a key part of the Cardinals' rotation at wide receiver.

Josh Doctson, WR
Wyoming to TCU
Doctson made an immediate contribution as a true freshman at Wyoming in 2011, catching 35 passes for 393 yards and five touchdowns. The 6'4", 185-pound native of Mansfield, Texas, will team with fellow transfer Ja'Jaun Story to give the Horned Frogs two big targets to complement returning receiver Brandon Carter.

Max Garcia, OL
Maryland to Florida
Georgia native started all 12 games as a sophomore at Maryland in 2011 and will be in position to earn a starting spot for the Gators in '13.

Jake Heaps, QB
BYU to Kansas
Heaps, the No. 1 quarterback recruit in the nation in 2010, started 16 games in his two seasons at BYU. He threw for 2,316 yards with 15 touchdowns and nine interceptions as a freshman but struggled as a sophomore. He was benched midway through the season and ended the year with nine TDs and eight INTs.

Kellen Jones, LB
Oklahoma to Clemson
Jones originally signed with Michigan but left the school in July before his true freshman season and landed at Oklahoma. He played in 12 games for the Sooners in 2011 before transferring to Clemson, where he will be reunited with Brent Venables, his defensive coordinator at OU.

Deon Long, WR
New Mexico to Maryland (via junior college)
Long, who originally signed with West Virginia in 2009, was a first-team NJCAA All-American after catching 100 passes for 1,625 yards and 25 touchdowns at Iowa Western Community College in 2012. As a redshirt freshman at New Mexico in 2011, he caught 47 passes for a team-high 809 yards while playing for current Maryland offensive coordinator Mike Locksley.

Jeff Luc, LB
Florida State to Cincinnati
A former 4-star prospect from Port St. Lucie, Fla., Luc played in 19 games and recorded 23 tackles in his two seasons with the Seminoles. He will have two seasons of eligibility remaining at Cincinnati.

Daniel Jenkins, RB
Arizona to Washington State
Jenkins rushed for 293 yards and two touchdowns while backing up Ka'Deem Carey, the nation's leading rusher, last season. He graduated from Arizona in December and will be eligible immediately at Washington State, where he should play a major role for an offense that ranked last in the nation in rushing in 2012.

Aaron Lynch, DE
Notre Dame to South Florida
A top-20 national recruit in the class of 2011, Lynch started six games for Notre Dame as a true freshman, recording 5.5 sacks and 14 quarterback hurries. He is expected to play a major role for the Bulls in 2013.

Jenkins: Peter Brouillet; Lynch: Bruce Schwartzman
Williams: Tim Umphrey; Showers: Chris Covatta

Justin McCay, WR
Oklahoma to Kansas
A former 5-star recruit (by Scout) from Kansas City, McCay played in only three games — and did not catch a pass — during his two years with the Sooners. He will have two years of eligibility at KU.

Tyler Moore, OL
Nebraska to Florida (via junior college)
The son of a former Nebraska tight end, Moore started four games at right tackle for the Cornhuskers as a true freshman in 2011. The Clearwater, Fla., native spent the fall of 2012 at St. Petersburg (Fla.) Community College, which doesn't have a football team. He will be a sophomore this season.

Matt Patchan, OL
Florida to Boston College
Patchan played in 27 games and started eight games (seven on offense and one on defense) during his injury-plagued four years at Florida. He graduated in December and opted to play his final season at Boston College, where he will reunite with Steve Addazio, his former position coach at Florida.

Josh Quezada, RB
BYU to Fresno State
Quezada rushed for 803 yards and six touchdowns in two seasons at BYU, with a high of 107 yards in a 2010 win over New Mexico. The Southern California native will have an opportunity to replace three-time 1,000-yard rusher Robbie Rouse as the feature back at Fresno State.

Tom Savage, QB
Arizona to Pittsburgh
Savage, who has not played a down since the 2010 season, will have one year of eligibility at Pittsburgh. He began his career at Rutgers (where he earned Freshman All-America honors in '09), made a one-year stop at Arizona (in 2011), and then landed at Pittsburgh. After sitting out in 2012, he is expected to be the starter for second-year Panthers coach Paul Chryst.

Jesse Scroggins, QB
USC to Arizona (via junior college)
A former top-100 national recruit, Scroggins lasted two years at USC. He spent the 2012 season at El Camino (Calif.) College, where he posted underwhelming numbers. In eight games, he only completed 45.9 percent of his passes for 1,148 yards and eight touchdowns.

Graham Stewart, LB
Florida to UConn
Stewart, a Connecticut native, returned home after one season at Florida. He played in 12 games for the Gators on special teams as a true freshman in 2011 and scored a touchdown on a blocked punt in the Gator Bowl against Ohio State.

Ja'Juan Story, WR
Florida to TCU
A top-50 national recruit in the Class of 2011, Story has yet to play in a game during his collegiate career. After redshirting at Florida in 2011, he sat out last fall after transferring to TCU.

Pete Thomas, QB
Colorado State to NC State
Thomas was a two-year starter at Colorado State. As a true freshman in 2010, he threw for 2,662 yards with 11 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. In '11, he threw for 1,607 yards, seven TDs and eight INTs in an injury-shortened season.

Darius White, WR
Texas to Missouri
A 2009 prep All-American, White caught six passes for 71 yards in two seasons at Texas. He will have two years of eligibility at Missouri.

D.J. Yendrey, DT
TCU to Texas State
Yendrey was one of several key TCU players kicked off the team in February 2012 following a drug bust on campus. He has landed at Texas State, where he will have one season of eligibility.

Ricardo Young, QB
New Mexico to Maryland (via junior college)
The well-traveled Young, the 2010 Washington, D.C., Player of the Year, has spent time at Virginia Tech, New Mexico (under current Maryland offensive coordinator Mike Locksley) and Iowa Western Community College. There are a host of candidates for the starting job in the fall, but Young was the only healthy quarterback in the spring.

Scotty Young, QB
Texas Tech to Louisiana Tech
A top-250 national recruit in the Class of 2010, Young left Texas Tech after two seasons without taking a snap. He is the favorite to start at Louisiana Tech for new coach Skip Holtz.

Brandon Williams, RB
Oklahoma to Texas A&M
Williams, one of the gems of the Sooners' 2011 recruiting class, only played one season at Oklahoma, where he rushed for 219 yards on 46 carries. He transferred to A&M to be closer to his home in Brookshire, Texas. The Aggies are expecting a major contribution from the former 5-star recruit.

Jameill Showers, QB
Texas A&M to UTEP
Showers emerged from last spring No. 1 on the Aggies depth chart but got beaten out by a guy named Johnny Manziel. Showers has already graduated from A&M, so he will be able to play immediately at UTEP, where he will have two years of eligibility.

PRESEASON RANKINGS

1. Alabama
2. Ohio State
3. Oregon
4. Georgia
5. South Carolina
6. Clemson
7. Stanford
8. Notre Dame
9. Texas A&M
10. Louisville
11. Boise State
12. LSU
13. Florida
14. Michigan
15. Florida State
16. Oklahoma State
17. Oklahoma
18. Texas
19. Wisconsin
20. TCU
21. Nebraska
22. Fresno State
23. Arizona State
24. Northwestern
25. Oregon State

We want to know your Top 25. Join our Facebook page to vote! **facebook.com/AthlonSports**

26. USC
27. UCLA
28. Vanderbilt
29. Miami
30. Virginia Tech
31. Kansas State
32. Michigan State
33. Ole Miss
34. Georgia Tech
35. Cincinnati
36. Baylor
37. Washington
38. North Carolina
39. Penn State
40. Arizona
41. Mississippi State
42. Auburn
43. BYU
44. Northern Illinois
45. Texas Tech
46. Tennessee
47. Rutgers
48. Missouri
49. Arkansas
50. Tulsa
51. UCF
52. Pittsburgh
53. Maryland
54. NC State
55. California
56. West Virginia
57. Iowa State
58. Utah
59. Indiana
60. Utah State
61. Minnesota
62. Virginia
63. San Jose State
64. San Diego State
65. Kentucky
66. UL Lafayette
67. Navy
68. Washington State
69. Iowa
70. Wake Forest
71. South Florida
72. Marshall
73. Duke
74. Ball State
75. Syracuse
76. Nevada
77. East Carolina
78. Purdue
79. Toledo
80. ULM
81. Rice
82. Air Force
83. Connecticut
84. Boston College
85. Colorado
86. Illinois
87. Bowling Green
88. Kansas
89. Ohio
90. Louisiana Tech
91. Western Kentucky
92. Houston
93. Wyoming
94. SMU
95. Colorado State
96. Memphis
97. Temple
98. Middle Tennessee
99. UTEP
100. New Mexico
101. Kent State
102. Western Michigan
103. Buffalo
104. UNLV
105. Arkansas State
106. Troy
107. UAB
108. Southern Miss
109. Tulane
110. North Texas
111. Central Michigan
112. Miami (Ohio)
113. Army
114. Akron
115. Texas State
116. FAU
117. South Alabama
118. FIU
119. Hawaii
120. Eastern Michigan
121. UTSA
122. New Mexico State
123. Idaho
124. UMass
125. Georgia State

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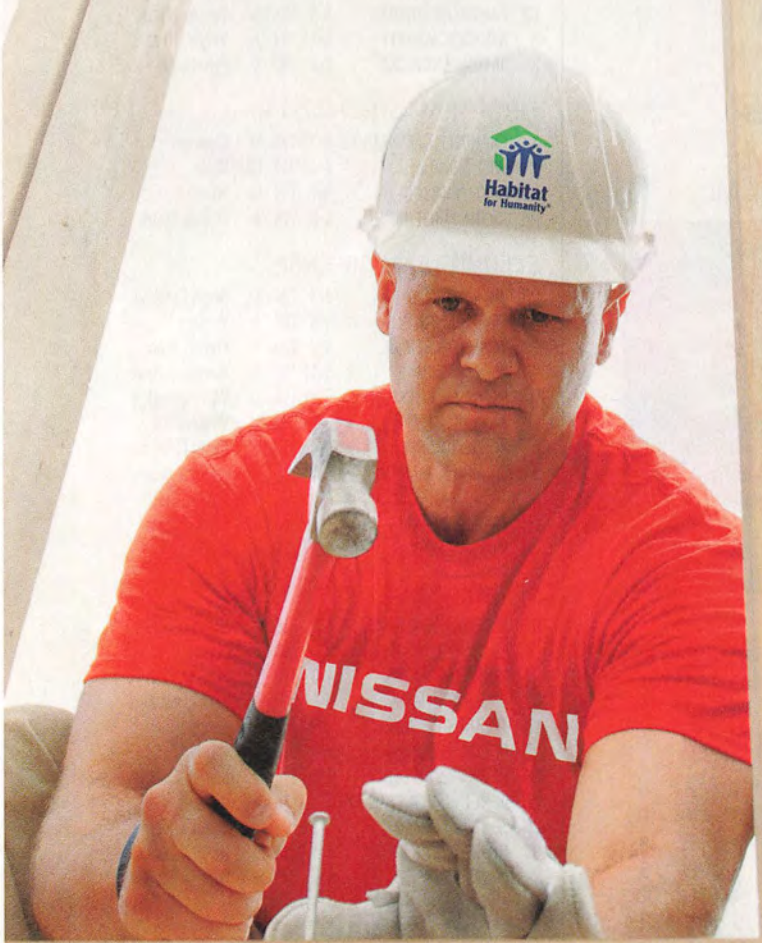
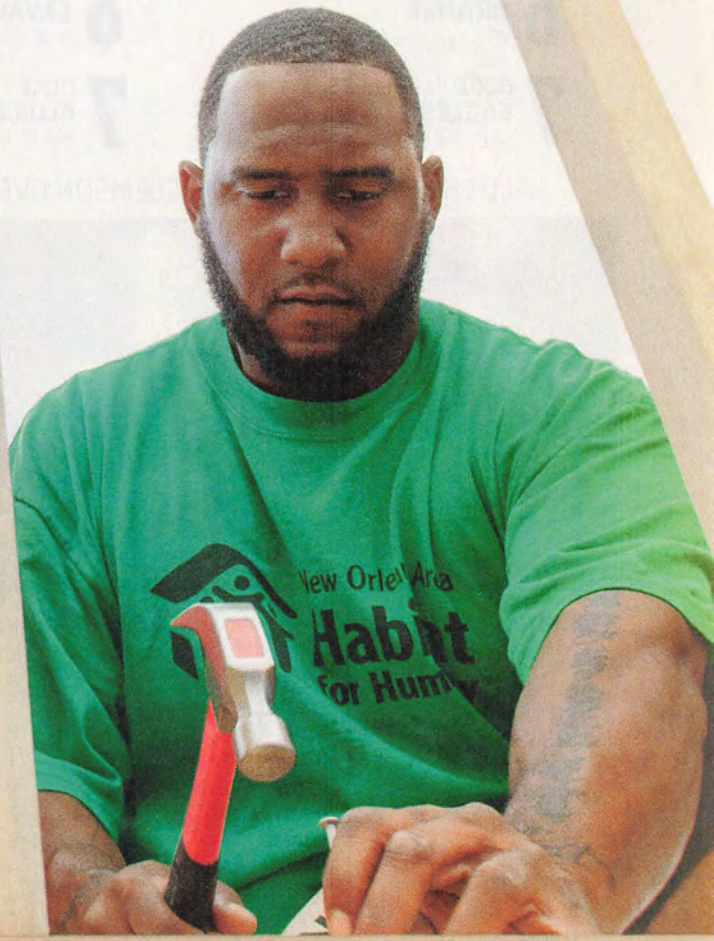


DANNY WUERFFEL
1996 Heisman Winner



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ACC PREVIEW

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

ATLANTIC

1. CLEMSON **TIGERS** 12-1, 8-0 ACC
2. FLORIDA STATE **SEMINOLES** 10-2, 7-1 ACC
3. MARYLAND **TERRAPINS** 7-5, 4-4 ACC
4. NC STATE **WOLFPACK** 7-5, 3-5 ACC
5. WAKE FOREST **DEMON DEACONS** 6-6, 3-5 ACC
6. SYRACUSE **ORANGE** 4-8, 2-6 ACC
7. BOSTON COLLEGE **EAGLES** 4-8, 1-7 ACC

COASTAL

1. MIAMI **HURRICANES** 9-4, 6-2 ACC
2. VIRGINIA TECH **HOKIES** 8-4, 5-3 ACC
3. GEORGIA TECH **YELLOW JACKETS** 8-4, 5-3 ACC
4. NORTH CAROLINA **TAR HEELS** 8-4, 5-3 ACC
5. PITTSBURGH **PANTHERS** 6-6, 3-5 ACC
6. VIRGINIA **CAVALIERS** 4-8, 2-6 ACC
7. DUKE **BLUE DEVILS** 5-7, 2-6 ACC

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: CLEMSON OVER MIAMI

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Florida State
2. Clemson
3. Virginia Tech
4. Miami
5. North Carolina
6. Virginia
7. Pittsburgh
8. Maryland
9. NC State
10. Wake Forest
11. Duke
12. Syracuse
13. Georgia Tech
14. Boston College

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	8	14	8	11	13	6	14
CLEMSON	1	7	2	3	3	2	7
DUKE	10	11	11	6	14	14	13
FLORIDA STATE	6	1	1	2	2	1	1
GEORGIA TECH	7	6	14	4	10	3	6
MARYLAND	12	12	7	10	11	10	11
MIAMI	4	2	3	1	6	7	8
NORTH CAROLINA	2	4	4	5	9	13	5
NC STATE	11	8	6	12	4	12	10
PITTSBURGH	9	13	9	13	5	8	3
SYRACUSE	14	3	12	9	12	5	12
VIRGINIA	13	5	5	7	8	11	4
VIRGINIA TECH	3	10	13	8	1	4	2
WAKE FOREST	5	9	10	14	7	9	9

PRESEASON ALL-ACC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TAJH BOYD	6-1	225	Sr.	Clemson
RB	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	194	So.	Miami
RB	JEROME SMITH	6-0	219	Jr.	Syracuse
WR	STEFON DIGGS	6-1	185	So.	Maryland
WR	SAMMY WATKINS	6-1	205	Jr.	Clemson
TE	ERIC EBRON	6-4	245	Jr.	North Carolina
C	BRYAN STORK	6-4	312	Sr.	Florida State
G	TRE' JACKSON	6-4	327	Jr.	Florida State
G	BRANDON LINDER	6-6	317	Sr.	Miami
T	JAMES HURST	6-7	305	Sr.	North Carolina
T	BRANDON THOMAS	6-3	305	Sr.	Clemson

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	JAMES GAYLE	6-4	253	Sr.	Virginia Tech
DE	KAREEM MARTIN	6-6	265	Sr.	North Carolina
DT	AARON DONALD	6-0	275	Sr.	Pittsburgh
DT	TIMMY JERNIGAN	6-2	298	Jr.	Florida State
LB	CHRISTIAN JONES	6-4	232	Sr.	Florida State
LB	QUAYSHAWN NEALY	6-1	232	Jr.	Georgia Tech
LB	JACK TYLER	6-1	225	Sr.	Virginia Tech
CB	ROSS COCKRELL	6-0	180	Sr.	Duke
CB	LAMARCUS JOYNER	5-8	195	Sr.	Florida State
S	KYSHOEN JARRETT	5-11	194	Jr.	Virginia Tech
S	JASON HENDRICKS	6-0	180	Sr.	Pittsburgh

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CHANDLER CATANZARO	6-2	195	Sr.	Clemson
P	WILL MONDAY	6-4	210	So.	Duke
KR	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	194	So.	Miami
PR	RASHAD GREENE	6-0	175	Jr.	Florida State

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BRYN RENNER	6-3	225	Sr.	North Carolina
RB	KEVIN PARKS	5-8	200	Jr.	Virginia
RB	JAMES WILDER JR.	6-2	226	Jr.	Florida State
WR	ALEX AMIDON	5-11	186	Sr.	Boston College
WR	MICHAEL CAMPANARO	5-11	195	Sr.	Wake Forest
TE	JAKE MCGEE	6-5	235	Jr.	Virginia
C	RUSSELL BODINE	6-4	310	Jr.	North Carolina
G	SHAQUILLE MASON	6-1	305	Jr.	Georgia Tech
G	JOSUE MATIAS	6-6	326	Jr.	Florida State
T	CAMERON ERVING	6-6	310	Jr.	Florida State
T	MORGAN MOSES	6-6	325	Sr.	Virginia

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	JEREMIAH ATTAOCHU	6-3	240	Sr.	Georgia Tech
DE	ANTHONY CHICKILLO	6-4	269	Jr.	Miami
DT	DERRICK HOPKINS	6-0	312	Sr.	Virginia Tech
DT	NIKITA WHITLOCK	5-11	260	Sr.	Wake Forest
LB	JABARI HUNT-DAYS	6-3	252	So.	Georgia Tech
LB	DENZEL PERRYMAN	6-0	236	Jr.	Miami
LB	KEVIN PIERRE-LOUIS	6-1	215	Sr.	Boston College
CB	DEMETRIOUS NICHOLSON	5-11	170	Jr.	Virginia
CB	JEMEA THOMAS	5-10	195	Sr.	Georgia Tech
S	TRE BOSTON	6-1	205	Sr.	North Carolina
S	ISAIAH JOHNSON	6-2	208	Sr.	Georgia Tech

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	ROSS MARTIN	5-9	185	So.	Duke
P	TOMMY HIBBARD	5-10	190	Jr.	North Carolina
KR	STEFON DIGGS	6-1	185	So.	Maryland
PR	JAMAL GOLDEN	6-0	188	Jr.	Georgia Tech

Wade Payne

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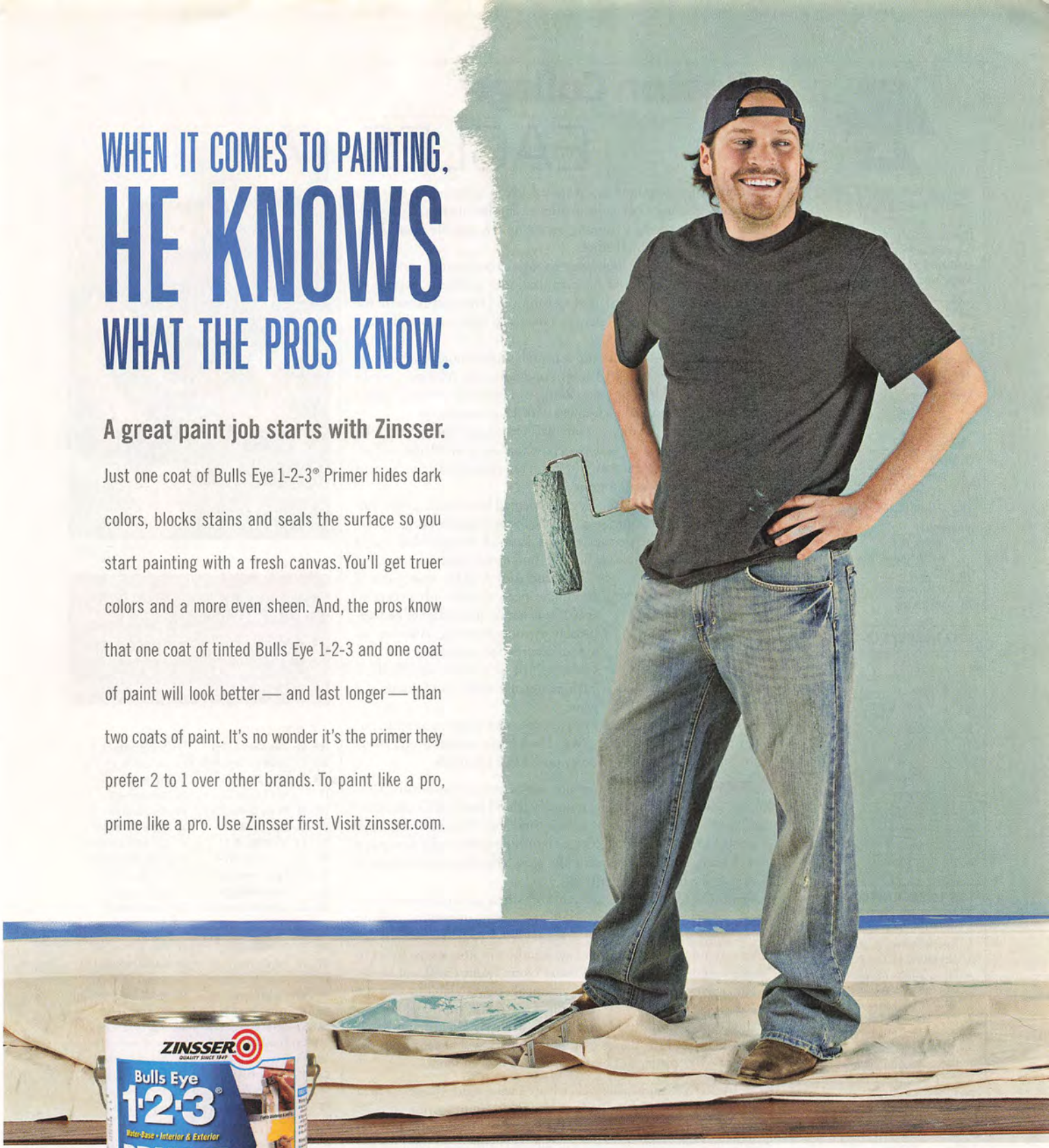

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Boston College EAGLES

NATIONAL FORECAST 84
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Steve Addazio
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 13-11 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ryan Day
Defensive Coordinator: Don Brown
Chestnut Hill, MA
Alumni Stadium (44,500)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (ACC)

August	
31	Villanova
September	
6	Wake Forest
14	at USC
28	Florida State
October	
5	Army
12	at Clemson
26	at North Carolina
November	
2	Virginia Tech
9	at New Mexico State
16	NC State
23	at Maryland
30	at Syracuse

2012 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Sept.	1	Miami	L	32-41
Sept.	8	Maine	W	34-3
Sept.	15	at Northwestern	L	13-22
Sept.	29	Clemson	L	31-45
Oct.	6	at Army	L	31-34
Oct.	13	at Florida State	L	7-51
Oct.	20	at Georgia Tech	L	17-37
Oct.	27	Maryland	W	20-17
Nov.	3	at Wake Forest	L	14-28
Nov.	10	Notre Dame	L	6-21
Nov.	17	Virginia Tech	(ot) L	23-30
Nov.	24	at NC State	L	10-27

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Matt Milano, DB, Orlando, FL
2. Tevin Montgomery, DL, Jamaica Plain, MA
3. Jack Cottrell, LB, Eden Prairie, MN
4. Charlie Callinan, WR, Westfield, NJ
5. Drew Barksdale, WR, Solon, OH
6. Joel Rich, DE, Minerva, OH
7. James Walsh, QB, Dublin, OH
8. Myles Willis, ATH, Atlanta, GA
9. Tyler Rouse, RB, Baldwinsville, NY
10. Mack Lowrie, QB, Foxboro, MA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	19.8 ppg	11	109
Rushing	90.9 ypg	12	115
Passing	258.9 ypg	8	45
Total	349.8 ypg	10	99
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	29.7 ppg	9	74
Rushing	214.1 ypg	11	111
Passing	242.3 ypg	7	75
Total	456.4 ypg	10	100
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-5	-0.42	8	88

OFFENSE First-year head coach Steve Addazio came to Chestnut Hill intent on installing a ball-control offense. But he inherited a pass-oriented attack that lacks a running back remotely capable of satisfying his primary philosophical edict.

Addazio is headstrong but smart enough to compromise on principle in the first semester of his organizational overhaul. Incumbent quarterback Chase Rettig started 12 games and emerged as one of the leading passers in the ACC despite a damaged tight end and the lack of a credible running game.

Rettig nearly doubled his output from his sophomore to junior seasons, but he begins the 2013 season under his fifth offensive coordinator (Ryan Day) in four years. Rettig completed 253-of-467 passes for 3,065 yards and 17 touchdowns with 13 interceptions.

"We really have got to be a more balanced team," Rettig says. "We have to establish the run, and lot of guys that are quarterbacks and receivers don't want to hear that. But if you can establish the run it opens so much in the play-action game."

Senior Rolandan "Deuce" Finch, a talented but fumble-prone tailback, inexplicably quit the team after the first spring scrimmage. Andre Williams is an experienced and rugged downhill runner, while David Dudeck and Tahj Kimble are limited third down options.

120

Boston College ranked 120th in the nation (last) in both sacks (six) and tackles for a loss (45) in 2012.

Split end Alex Amidon emerged as a legitimate deep threat with deceptive speed, soft hands and a disciplined approach to route-running. Amidon set school records for receptions (78) and yards (1,210) in a season and finished 11th nationally with 100.8 yards per game.

BC has two quality guards and a serviceable center returning, but they must replace both tackles. Matt Patchan is a transfer from Florida who could replace Emmett Cleary on Rettig's blind side.

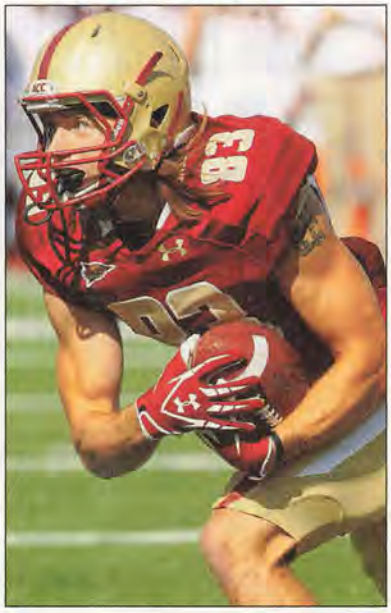
DEFENSE Addazio's signature hire was defensive coordinator Don Brown, who has built a sterling résumé as a head coach at Northeastern and UMass and a coordinator at Maryland and UConn. Brown took control of a fragmented collection of returning starters who were inept at containing the run, defending the pass, harassing the quarterback or exiting the field on third down.

Against ACC opponents, BC ranked 11th in scoring defense (34.5 ppg), ninth in total defense (465.8 ypg), 10th in rushing defense (188.4 ypg) and eighth in pass defense (277.4 ypg). The Eagles' defense surrendered appalling yardage numbers in non-league losses to Northwestern (575), Army (595) and Notre Dame (393).

The defensive line is devoid of an impact player who can stop the ball at the point of attack or get to the quarterback. BC does have two quality, experienced outside linebackers in Steele Divitto and Kevin Pierre-Louis, and the Eagles' porous secondary will benefit from the return of cover corner Al Louis-Jean from a broken foot.

SPECIALISTS Senior placekicker Nate Freese made 18-of-20 field goals and was 24-of-24 on PATs to lead the team in scoring with 78 points. Split end Spiffy Evans was the Eagles' featured return man on kickoffs and punts. He averaged a stellar 25.3 yards on 11 punt returns and 18.6 yards on 34 kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Addazio doesn't have a lot to build around. The Eagles' last three recruiting classes have lacked an impact player, so there's not much depth behind a strong senior class. The Eagles can score points with their passing attack, but they lack an effective running game or a tight end to exploit the middle of the field. The Eagles have liabilities at all three levels of defense and are destined to endure a third straight losing season.



ALEX AMIDON

THE QUOTE

"They are always big on the offensive line, but nobody at the receiver position really scares you. Where they hurt is at the skill positions."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**83**	**Alex Amidon (Sr.)**	**7**	**Spiffy Evans (Jr.)**
WR	**14**	**Johnathan Coleman (Sr.)**	3	Harrison Jackson (So.)
WR	10	Bobby Swigert (Sr.)	86	Marcus Grant (So.)
LT		Matt Patchan (Sr.)	74	Dave Bowen (So.)
LG	**76**	**Bobby Vardaro (Jr.)**	60	Bryan Davis (Sr.)
C	**59**	**Andy Gallik (Jr.)**	69	Paul Gaughan (So.)
RG	**62**	**Ian White (Sr.)**	64	Harris Williams (Jr.)
RT	67	Seth Betancourt (Jr.)	70	Aaron Kramer (Jr.)
TE	18	Dan Crimmins (So.)	89	Mike Naples (Sr.)
QB	**11**	**Chase Rettig (Sr.)**	8	Josh Bordner (Jr.)
TB	**44**	**Andre Williams (Sr.)**	26	David Dudeck (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	99	Brian Mihalik (Jr.)	87	Malachi Moore (So.)
DT	98	Max Ricci (Jr.)	96	Kaleb Ramsey (Sr.)
DT	55	Kieran Borcich (So.)	95	Dominic Appiah (Jr.)
DE	**91**	**Kasim Edebali (Sr.)**	**45**	**Mehdi Abdesmad (Jr.)**
WLB	**24**	**Kevin Pierre-Louis (Sr.)**	34	Sean Duggan (Jr.)
MLB	52	Steven Daniels (So.)	34	Sean Duggan (Jr.)
SLB	**49**	**Steele Divitto (Sr.)**	35	Andre Lawrence (Sr.)
CB	5	Al Louis-Jean (So.)	**21**	**Manuel Asprilla (Jr.)**
CB	**19**	**Sean Sylvia (Jr.)**	38	Ted Davenport (Jr.)
SS	**43**	**Spenser Rositano (Jr.)**	17	Bryce Jones (So.)
FS	**27**	**Justin Simmons (So.)**	25	Josh Keyes (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	Nate Freese (Sr.)	**KR**	7	Spiffy Evans (Jr.)
P	42	Alex Howell (So.)	**PR**	7	Spiffy Evans (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chase Rettig, 467-253-3,065-13, 17 TDs
Rushing: Andre Williams, 130 att., 584 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Alex Amidon, 78 rec., 1,210 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Steele Divitto, 92
Sacks: Kevin Pierre-Louis, 2
Interceptions: Spenser Rositano, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

NATIONAL FORECAST 6

ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 1

Clemson TIGERS

TAJH BOYD

Wade Payne

THE QUOTE

"Tajh Boyd, for as good a year as he had, is still inconsistent . ... Sometimes he does things that make you wonder what's he thinking."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**2**	**Sammy Watkins (Jr.)**	1	Martavis Bryant (Jr.)
WR	16	Adam Humphries (Jr.)	5	Germone Hopper (Fr.)
WR	19	Charone Peake (Jr.)		Mike Williams (Fr.)
LT	**63**	**Brandon Thomas (Sr.)**	79	Isaiah Battle (So.)
LG	**68**	**David Beasley (Jr.)**	67	Kalon Davis (Jr.)
C	58	Ryan Norton (So.)	57	Jay Guillermo (Fr.)
RG	**62**	**Tyler Shatley (Sr.)**	77	Reid Webster (Jr.)
RT	**70**	**Gifford Timothy (Jr.)**	73	Joe Gore (So.)
TE	81	Stanton Seckinger (So.)	40	Darrell Smith (Sr.)
QB	**10**	**Tajh Boyd (Sr.)**	8	Cole Stoudt (Jr.)
RB	25	Roderick McDowell (Sr.)	22	D.J. Howard (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	3	Vic Beasley (Jr.)	98	Kevin Dodd (So.)
NG	**50**	**Grady Jarrett (Jr.)**	99	DeShawn Williams (Jr.)
DT	**91**	**Josh Watson (Jr.)**	48	D.J. Reader (So.)
DE	**93**	**Corey Crawford (Jr.)**	6	Tavaris Barnes (Jr.)
WILL	**33**	**Spencer Shuey (Sr.)**	7	Tony Steward (Jr.)
MLB	**12**	**Stephone Anthony (Jr.)**	44	B.J. Goodson (So.)
SAM	**34**	**Quandon Christian (Sr.)**	52	Kellen Jones (So.)
CB	21	Darius Robinson (Sr.)		Mackensie Alexander (Fr.)
CB	17	Bashaud Breeland (Jr.)	26	Garry Peters (Jr.)
S	**11**	**Travis Blanks (So.)**		Jadar Johnson (Fr.)
S	27	Robert Smith (Jr.)	47	Taylor Watson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Chandler Catanzaro (Sr.)	**KR**	2	Sammy Watkins (Jr.)
P	92	Bradley Pinion (So.)	**PR**	16	Adam Humphries (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tajh Boyd, 427-287-3,896-13, 36 TDs

Rushing: Tajh Boyd, 186 att., 514 yds., 10 TDs

Receiving: Sammy Watkins, 57 rec., 708 yds., 3 TDs

Tackles: Spencer Shuey, 93

Sacks: Vic Beasley, 8

Interceptions: 5 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Tajh Boyd's decision to return for his senior season was a huge recruiting coup for Clemson coach Dabo Swinney. Boyd took a major step forward as a junior, emerging as one of the nation's top quarterbacks. He earned ACC Player of the Year honors and was also named first-team All-America by the American Football Coaches Association. Boyd threw for 3,896 yards and 36 touchdowns (an ACC single-season record) against 13 interceptions.

Senior tailback Roderick McDowell thought about transferring two years ago. Now, he's the No. 1 back, replacing standout senior and two-time 1,000-yard rusher Andre Ellington. Junior D.J. Howard and sophomore Zac Brooks will compete for time behind McDowell.

Junior Sammy Watkins had one of the best freshman seasons ever for a receiver, but his numbers slipped last fall thanks to a drug arrest-related suspension and injuries. He'll be counted upon to pick up the slack left by DeAndre Hopkins' early NFL departure. Fellow juniors Adam Humphries, Charone Peake and Martavis Bryant will also help; Peake and Bryant are former 4-star recruits.

533

Clemson set a single-season school record with 533 points last season. The Tigers led the ACC with a 41.0-point per game average.

A year ago, the offensive line paved the way for an attack that averaged 512.7 yards and 41.0 points per game. With four starters returning, it should be a major strength once again. The only loss, however, was a big one — center Dalton Freeman, a two-time Rimington Award finalist.

DEFENSE Brent Venables' defense improved steadily as 2012 progressed. The Tigers finished third in the ACC in scoring defense and capped the year by holding LSU to only 219 yards of total offense in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Despite the loss of leading tackler Jonathan Willard and starting safeties Rashard Hall and Jonathan Meeks, the Tigers' defense should be even better this fall.

The defensive line was much-improved in 2012 and figures to build on that success after losing only starting end Malliciah Goodman. Junior Vic Beasley (eight sacks in only 288 snaps) is poised to move into Goodman's strong-side end role, while juniors Josh Watson, DeShawn Williams and Grady Jarrett form a formidable three-man rotation at defensive tackle.

Senior Spencer Shuey (93 tackles) and junior Stephone Anthony lead an improved linebacker rotation, and Travis Blanks, a 2012 Freshman All-American, is a star in the making at safety. Blanks should shore up a thin secondary that was, at times, a disaster. Junior Robert Smith is working as a starter at the other spot. Veterans Martin Jenkins, Bashaud Breeland and Darius Robinson all struggled with injuries to various degrees, but should provide experience this fall.

SPECIALISTS Following a rocky freshman season, Chandler Catanzaro has emerged as one of Clemson's most consistent kickers in school history. Catanzaro made 18-of-19 field goals as a junior, including the game-winner as time expired against LSU in the bowl game. Sophomore Bradley Pinion is the odds-on favorite to replace Spencer Benton as the punter and kickoff specialist; he has a booming leg and split kickoff duties with Benton a year ago.

FINAL ANALYSIS Clemson is the favorite in the ACC and should be ranked in the top 10 in every preseason poll. Swinney believes he can bring the program's second national title back to Death Valley. Is this the year? That remains unclear. But with a solid base of talent returning, Clemson fans have sky-high expectations.

"I'm proud of what we have done, but there is so much more to do," Swinney says. "We have realized some accomplishments that haven't been done here in 20 or 30 years, but we have higher goals. This is a program that has the resources, the tradition, the fan support, the overall infrastructure to compete for the national championship."

Head Coach: Dabo Swinney
Record at School: 40-21 (4+ years)
Career Record: 40-21 (4+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Chad Morris
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Marion Hobby, Brent Venables
Clemson, SC
Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,500)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 12-1, 8-0 (ACC)

August	
31	Georgia
September	
7	South Carolina State
19	at NC State
28	Wake Forest
October	
5	at Syracuse
12	Boston College
19	Florida State
26	at Maryland
November	
2	at Virginia
14	Georgia Tech
23	The Citadel
30	at South Carolina

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Sept.	1	vs. Auburn %	W	26-19
Sept.	8	Ball State	W	52-27
Sept.	15	Furman	W	41-7
Sept.	22	at Florida State	L	37-49
Sept.	29	at Boston College	W	45-31
Oct.	6	Georgia Tech	W	47-31
Oct.	20	Virginia Tech	W	38-17
Oct.	25	at Wake Forest	W	42-13
Nov.	3	at Duke	W	56-20
Nov.	10	Maryland	W	45-10
Nov.	17	NC State	W	62-48
Nov.	24	South Carolina	L	17-27
Dec.	31	vs. LSU #	W	25-24

%Atlanta #Chick-fil-A Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Mackensie Alexander, CB, Immokalee, FL
2. Dorian O'Daniel, LB, Olney, MD
3. Tyrone Crowder, OL, Rockingham, NC
4. Ben Boulware, LB, Anderson, SC
5. Jayron Kearse, ATH, Fort Myers, FL
6. Tyshon Dye, RB, Elberton, GA
7. Ebenezer Ogundeko, DE, Brooklyn, NY
8. Shaq Lawson, DE, Central, SC
9. Mike Williams, WR, Holy Hill, SC
10. Scott Pagano, DT, Honolulu, HI

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	41.0 ppg	1	6
Rushing	191.1 ypg	4	36
Passing	321.6 ypg	1	13
Total	512.7 ypg	1	9
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	24.9 ppg	3	48
Rushing	155.9 ypg	8	57
Passing	240.3 ypg	6	71
Total	396.2 ypg	7	63
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+2	+0.15	5	50

Florida State SEMINOLES

NATIONAL FORECAST 15
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Jimbo Fisher
Record at School: 31-10 (3 years)
Career Record: 31-10 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jimbo Fisher
Defensive Coordinator: Jeremy Pruitt
Tallahassee, FL
Doak Campbell Stadium (82,300)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 7-1 (ACC)

September	
2	at Pittsburgh
14	Nevada
21	Bethune-Cookman
28	at Boston College
October	
5	Maryland
19	at Clemson
26	NC State
November	
2	Miami (Fla.)
9	at Wake Forest
16	Syracuse
23	Idaho
30	at Florida

2012 RESULTS (12-2, 7-1)

Sept.	1	Murray State	W	69–3
Sept.	8	Savannah State	W	55–0
Sept.	15	Wake Forest	W	52–0
Sept.	22	Clemson	W	49–37
Sept.	29	at South Florida	W	30–17
Oct.	6	at NC State	L	16–17
Oct.	13	Boston College	W	51–7
Oct.	20	at Miami (Fla.)	W	33–20
Oct.	27	Duke	W	48–7
Nov.	8	at Virginia Tech	W	28–22
Nov.	17	at Maryland	W	41–14
Nov.	24	Florida	L	26–37
Dec.	1	vs. Georgia Tech %	W	21–15
Jan.	1	vs. Northern Illinois #	W	31–10

%Charlotte #Orange Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Matthew Thomas, LB, Miami, FL
2. Jalen Ramsey, CB, Nashville, TN
3. DeMarcus Walker, DE, Jacksonville, FL
4. Ryan Green, RB, St. Petersburg, FL
5. Ira Denson, OL, Madison, FL
6. Levonte Whitfield, WR, Orlando, FL
7. E.J. Levenberry, LB, Woodbridge, VA
8. Keith Bryant, DT, Delray Beach, FL
9. Freddie Stevenson, LB, Bartow, FL
10. Isaiah Jones, WR, Milton, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	39.3 ppg	3	10
Rushing	206.2 ypg	2	24
Passing	265.3 ypg	7	39
Total	471.5 ypg	3	19
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	14.7 ppg	1	6
Rushing	92.3 ypg	1	3
Passing	161.9 ypg	1	1
Total	254.1 ypg	1	2
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-6	-0.43	9	93

OFFENSE After EJ Manuel led FSU to a victory over Northern Illinois in the Orange Bowl, everyone knew the Seminoles would have to search for a new quarterback this season. What we couldn't have predicted was what a wild ride that would be. For the first time in five years, Florida State conducted a truly open competition at quarterback during spring drills, and the winner appears to be redshirt freshman Jameis Winston. Coach Jimbo Fisher won't confirm that just yet; he might not officially name his starter until preseason camp in August.

But Winston was so impressive during spring drills that junior Clint Trickett, who entered the spring atop the depth chart, announced he was transferring just four days after the Seminoles' spring game. Winston, who was rated by many the nation's No. 1 quarterback coming out of Hueytown (Ala.) High School near Birmingham, still will have to fight off challenges from sophomore Jacob Coker and redshirt freshman Sean Maguire.

FSU returns two junior tailbacks with starting experience. Devonta Freeman finished with 660 yards and eight touchdowns last season, while James Wilder Jr. had 635 yards and 11 scores. And the wide receiver group is deep and talented, led by junior Rashad Greene. Kenny Shaw, Kelvin Benjamin and Greg Dent all caught at least 27 passes last fall.

17

Florida State finished 113th nationally last season with 17 fumbles lost. And they actually fumbled 24 times overall.

The Seminoles are solid up front, with four starters returning and the lone new starter being a veteran (junior Bobby Hart) with plenty of experience. FSU is not particularly deep on the line, however, so overcoming injuries would be a problem.

DEFENSE When Fisher lured Jeremy Pruitt away from Alabama to be his new defensive coordinator, he did so with the hopes of reshaping his defense in the mold of the Crimson Tide. He wants more turnovers and big plays, and the Seminoles should have the talent to make that happen.

Seniors Christian Jones and Telvin Smith lead a deep and talented linebacker corps, and the Seminoles might have even more talent in the defensive backfield. Senior Lamarcus Joyner is coming off of an All-ACC season at safety but worked primarily at cornerback in spring drills. Senior Terrence Brooks led FSU's defensive backs in tackles last season, and juniors Tyler Hunter and Karlos Williams emerged as potential stars late in 2012.

The biggest challenges will be replacing four starters on the defensive line, but new tackles Timmy Jernigan and Demonte McAllister each put up better numbers in 2012 than the starters they are replacing.

There very likely will be a drop-off at defensive end, where the Seminoles lost high NFL Draft picks Bjoern Werner and Cornellius Carradine. Sophomore Mario Edwards Jr. and senior Dan Hicks likely will fill those roles.

SPECIALISTS Fisher believes redshirt freshman placekicker Roberto Aguayo could be even better than departing All-American Dustin Hopkins. Punter Cason Beatty returns from a solid freshman campaign, but the Seminoles will need to make improvements in the return game, where they struggled with fumbles last fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS This hasn't been the easiest offseason for Fisher. Not only is he replacing a slew of starters on both sides of the ball, but he also lost six of nine assistant coaches to other schools.

Despite that turnover, the Seminoles again will be among the most talented teams in the country. If Winston can handle the starting quarterback job as a redshirt freshman and FSU avoids injuries on the offensive line, the Seminoles will have a chance to win at least 10 games for the third time in Fisher's first four seasons.

RASHAD GREENE

THE QUOTE

"The one thing that jumps out is their back seven. The speed the linebackers had, the physicality, it's impressive."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**80**	**Rashad Greene (Jr.)**	81	Kenny Shaw (Sr.)
WR	15	Greg Dent (Sr.)	1	Kelvin Benjamin (So.)
LT	**75**	**Cameron Erving (Jr.)**	56	Trey Pettis (So.)
LG	**70**	**Josue Matias (Jr.)**	60	Jacob Fahrenkrug (Sr.)
C	**52**	**Bryan Stork (Sr.)**	62	Austin Barron (Jr.)
RG	**54**	**Tre' Jackson (Jr.)**	65	Ruben Carter (So.)
RT	51	Bobby Hart (Jr.)	52	Bryan Stork (Sr.)
TE	**35**	**Nick O'Leary (Jr.)**	33	Kevin Haplea (Sr.)
QB	5	Jameis Winston (Fr.)	14	Jacob Coker (So.)
FB	41	Chad Abram (Sr.)	42	Shayne Broxsie (Sr.)
RB	32	James Wilder Jr. (Jr.)	8	Devonta Freeman (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	15	Mario Edwards Jr. (So.)	51	Giorgio Newberry (So.)
DT	8	Timmy Jernigan (Jr.)	55	Jacobbi McDaniel (Sr.)
DT	97	Demonte McAllister (Sr.)	90	Eddie Goldman (So.)
DE	6	Dan Hicks (Sr.)	21	Chris Casher (Fr.)
WLB	**7**	**Christian Jones (Sr.)**	5	Reggie Northrup (So.)
MLB	22	Telvin Smith (Sr.)	52	Ukeme Eligwe (Fr.)
SLB	24	Terrance Smith (So.)	28	Nigel Terrell (Jr.)
CB	**6**	**Nick Waisome (Jr.)**	3	Ronald Darby (So.)
CB	**20**	**Lamarcus Joyner (Sr.)**	26	P.J. Williams (So.)
SS	1	Tyler Hunter (Jr.)	23	Gerald Demps (Sr.)
FS	**31**	**Terrence Brooks (Sr.)**	9	Karlos Williams (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Roberto Aguayo (Fr.)	**KR**	9	Karlos Williams (Jr.)
P	38	Cason Beatty (So.)	**PR**	80	Rashad Greene (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jacob Coker, 5-3-45-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Devonta Freeman, 111 att., 660 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Rashad Greene, 57 rec., 741 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Christian Jones, 95
Sacks: Demonte McAllister, 3.5
Interceptions: Tyler Hunter, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles

NATIONAL FORECAST 53
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 3

Maryland

TERRAPINS

STEFON DIGGS

Brian Ebner

OFFENSE If the Terps don't wind up with a freshman scout team linebacker playing quarterback again this year, the offense should be improved. Senior C.J. Brown is back from his knee injury to run the system originally designed around his running and passing skills, and he's got a load of weapons, including sophomore sensation Stefon Diggs, promising tailback Wes Brown and incoming junior college transfer Deon Long.

Diggs racked up the second-most all-purpose yards (1,896) in school history as a true freshman, and Long had 25 TDs at Iowa Western Community College. Brown is one of three able sophomore backs, along with Brandon Ross and Albert Reid.

The ability to turn loose all those big-play threats will require some major improvement up front. There's a little experience coming back, but the offensive line was the point of emphasis all spring, as coach Randy Edsall and veteran position coach Tom Brattan broke them down and went back to the basics. Sophomore left tackle Mike Madaras could be a future star — the sooner that happens the better in this patchwork group.

5

The Terrapin defense held opponents to less than 100 yards rushing in five games last year. Maryland ranked second in the league in rushing defense.

DEFENSE Darius Kilgo is the only starter back up front, but he was a revelation last fall and anchored a much-improved run defense. Quinton Jefferson and Keith Bowers came out of the spring as the other starters up front.

Linebackers Cole Farrand (returning team highs of 78 tackles and six tackles for a loss) and L.A. Goree return at the two middle spots, and senior Marcus Whitfield and junior Alex Twine have experience on the edges.

Cornerbacks Dexter McDougle and Jeremiah Johnson started every game last season, and there's experience at safety, too. McDougle was third on the team with 71 tackles, and Johnson, a looming lockdown corner, led the team with eight pass break-ups.

Experienced depth, especially on that rebuilding defensive line, is an issue, as is finding a pass rush in the second year in coordinator Brian Stewart's 3-4 scheme. Statistically, the Terps were improved but still gave up 30 or more points in five games, and each of those results was a loss.

SPECIALISTS Aussie Brad Craddock came in late last summer to win the kicking job, but he hit just 10-of-16 field goal attempts, including four misses inside 40 yards. Edsall is confident Craddock will be improved. Ditto for sophomore punter Nathan Renfro, who punted 75 times for a 39.7-yard average. The highlight of the special teams was easily Diggs, who was second in the ACC in kick returns with a 28.5-yard average and scored on returns of 100 and 99 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's the final go-round in the ACC for Maryland, which moves to the Big Ten in 2014. The Terrapins has six victories to show for Edsall's first two seasons and enough injuries to fill medical manuals for years. Maryland lost 10 players to season-enders last year, including four quarterbacks. Now, the Terps have some speed and some big-play potential but a lot of questions.

C.J. Brown, the first of the four quarterbacks to go down last year, is an inspirational team leader who seems to rally those around him. If he can do that — and get the ball in the hands of Diggs and Long and those running backs in space — Maryland should at least be fun to watch.

The defense looks faster, too, but that doesn't necessarily mean improved. Special teams weren't so special last year, either. Edsall has back-to-back top 35 recruiting classes, but he may need at least one more before the Terps can be a real threat. And then they'll have to do it in the Big Ten.

THE QUOTE

"I think Randy (Edsall) can coach. He has a hard edge to him that worked at UConn, but it's uncertain whether that will kind of take shape at Maryland."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	**Stefon Diggs (So.)**	8	Levern Jacobs (So.)
WR	6	Deon Long (Jr.)	10	Tyrek Cheeseboro (So.)
WR	82	**Marcus Leak (Jr.)**	3	Nigel King (So.)
LT	77	**Mike Madaras (So.)**	55	Ryan Doyle (So.)
LG	70	**De'Onte Arnett (Sr.)**	68	Silvano Altamirano (Jr.)
C	65	**Sal Conaboy (Jr.)**	50	Evan Mulrooney (So.)
RG	66	Andrew Zeller (So.)	69	Gary Harraka (Jr.)
RT	74	Nick Klemm (Sr.)	61	Jake Wheeler (Jr.)
TE	86	Dave Stinebaugh (Sr.)	80	Daniel Adams (So.)
QB	16	C.J. Brown (Sr.)	9	Ricardo Young (Jr.)
RB	4	Wes Brown (So.)	45	Brandon Ross (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	99	Quinton Jefferson (So.)	93	Andre Monroe (Jr.)
NT	97	**Darius Kilgo (Jr.)**	71	Nate Clarke (So.)
DE	91	Keith Bowers (Jr.)	90	Roman Braglio (Fr.)
OLB	41	Marcus Whitfield (Sr.)	51	Yannick Cudjoe-Virgil (Jr.)
ILB	47	**Cole Farrand (Jr.)**	58	Bradley Johnson (Sr.)
ILB	53	L.A. Goree (Jr.)	46	Abner Logan (Fr.)
OLB	35	Alex Twine (Jr.)	32	Avery Thompson (So.)
CB	14	**Jeremiah Johnson (Jr.)**	17	Isaac Goins (Sr.)
CB	25	**Dexter McDougle (Sr.)**	27	Alvin Hill (So.)
SS	20	Anthony Nixon (So.)	22	Zach Dancel (So.)
FS	21	Sean Davis (So.)	19	A.J. Hendy (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Brad Craddock (So.)	KR	1	Stefon Diggs (So.)
P	18	Nathan Renfro (So.)	PR	27	Alvin Hill (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Perry Hills, 169-97-1,336-7, 8 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Ross, 85 att., 390 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Stefon Diggs, 54 rec., 848 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Cole Farrand, 78
Sacks: Darius Kilgo, 1.5; Jeremiah Johnson, 1.5
Interceptions: Anthony Nixon, 1; Matt Robinson, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Head Coach: Randy Edsall
Record at School: 6-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 80-88 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Locksley
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Stewart
College Park, MD
Byrd Stadium (54,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-4 (ACC)

August		
31	FIU	
September		
7	Old Dominion	
14	at Connecticut	
21	vs. West Virginia #	
October		
5	at Florida State	
12	Virginia	
19	at Wake Forest	
26	Clemson	
November		
9	Syracuse	
16	at Virginia Tech	
23	Boston College	
30	at NC State	

#Baltimore, MD

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Sept.	1	William & Mary	W	7–6
Sept.	8	at Temple	W	36–27
Sept.	15	Connecticut	L	21–24
Sept.	22	at West Virginia	L	21–31
Oct.	6	Wake Forest	W	19–14
Oct.	13	at Virginia	W	27–20
Oct.	20	NC State	L	18–20
Oct.	27	at Boston College	L	17–20
Nov.	3	Georgia Tech	L	13–33
Nov.	10	at Clemson	L	10–45
Nov.	17	Florida State	L	14–41
Nov.	24	at North Carolina	L	38–45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derwin Gray, OL, Washington, DC
2. Yannick Ngakoue, LB, Bowie, MD
3. Deon Long, WR, Washington, DC*
4. Will Likely, DB, Belle Glade, FL
5. Andrew Isaacs, TE, Manchester, Conn.
6. Taivon Jacobs, WR, Camp Springs, MD
7. Shane Cockerille, QB, Baltimore, MD
8. Cavon Walker, LB, Washington, D.C.
9. Jajuan Dulaney, OL, Powder Spring, GA
10. Jalen Brooks, LB, Suwanee, GA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	20.1 ppg	10	107
Rushing	103.0 ypg	10	112
Passing	181.8 ypg	11	100
Total	284.8 ypg	12	120
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	27.2 ppg	6	56
Rushing	129.3 ypg	2	26
Passing	207.5 ypg	3	30
Total	336.8 ypg	3	21
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-10	-0.83	11	104

NC State WOLFPACK

NATIONAL FORECAST **54**
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Dave Doeren
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 23-4 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Canada
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Huxtable
Raleigh, NC
Carter-Finley Stadium (57,583)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 3-5 (ACC)

August		
31	Louisiana Tech	
September		
7	Richmond	
19	Clemson	
28	Central Michigan	
October		
5	at Wake Forest	
12	Syracuse	
26	at Florida State	
November		
2	North Carolina	
9	at Duke	
16	at Boston College	
23	East Carolina	
30	Maryland	

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	31	vs. Tennessee %	L	21–35
Sept.	8	at Connecticut	W	10–7
Sept.	15	South Alabama	W	31–7
Sept.	22	The Citadel	W	52–14
Sept.	29	at Miami	L	37–44
Oct.	6	Florida State	W	17–16
Oct.	20	at Maryland	W	20–18
Oct.	27	at North Carolina	L	35–43
Nov.	3	Virginia	L	6–33
Nov.	10	Wake Forest	W	37–6
Nov.	17	at Clemson	L	48–62
Nov.	24	Boston College	W	27–10
Dec.	31	vs. Vanderbilt #	L	24–38

%Atlanta #Music City Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Matt Dayes, RB, Weston, FL
2. Jack Tocho, CB, Charlotte, NC
3. Johnathan Alston, WR, Bunn, NC
4. Bra'Lon Cherry, WR, New Bern, NC
5. Dakwa Nichols, RB, Rockingham, NC
6. Josh Jones, S, Walled Lake, MI
7. Cole Blankenship, OL, Mocksville, NC
8. Tyler Reagan, G, Jacksonville, FL
9. Quinton Patterson, LB, Shelby, NC
10. Jerod Fernandez, LB, Lake Mary, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	28.1 ppg	7	69
Rushing	111.1 ypg	9	108
Passing	310.1 ypg	2	18
Total	421.2 ypg	6	48
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	25.6 ppg	4	52
Rushing	154.8 ypg	7	52
Passing	249.9 ypg	9	83
Total	404.7 ypg	8	68
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-9	-0.69	10	99

OFFENSE New coach Dave Doeren is not into labels. Doeren's teams at Northern Illinois won big with a version of the spread offense and relied on a running quarterback, but that doesn't mean it's what NC State will do this season. "We just need to score points, a lot of them," says Doeren, who led NIU to a 23–4 record in two seasons.

NC State, 7–6 a year ago, ran a pro-style passing attack under former coach Tom O'Brien. The Wolfpack, which will feature seven new regular starters on offense, will have to pick up Doeren's new preferred speed and terminology with a new quarterback but some familiar playmakers.

Junior Pete Thomas, a transfer from Colorado State, is in line to replace Mike Glennon at quarterback. Doeren won't ask the 6'6", 234-pound Thomas to run like Jordan Lynch did at NIU, but the Wolfpack will need him — or sophomore Manny Stocker — to be effective running an up-tempo scheme.

Running backs Shadrach Thornton and Tony Creecy will be featured by first-year coordinator Matt Canada, who was at Wisconsin in 2012. Thornton led the Wolfpack in rushing last season (694 yards) despite not taking a snap in the first three games.

There are questions up front, where four starters from the season opener need to be replaced. Senior left tackle Rob Crisp will lead the inexperienced group, with help from senior guard Duran Christophe.

A veteran trio of receivers — Bryan Underwood, Quintin Payton and Rashard Smith — should excel in the new scheme. Underwood led the team — and ranked second in the ACC — with 10 touchdown catches last season.

3.5

NC State has not averaged more than 3.5 yards per carry for a season since '08. Last year, Dave Doeren's Northern Illinois team led the MAC at 5.4.

DEFENSE New defensive coordinator Dave Huxtable will need to find new starters at three linebacker spots and three more in the secondary in his 4-3 scheme.

That's not necessarily all bad news. Filling both safety spots will be a tough task, with either young or injury-prone options, but the early exit of cornerback David Amerson to the NFL could be a case of addition by subtraction. Amerson made big plays (18 interceptions in two seasons) but also took big chances and got burned in some of NC State's worst losses.

Senior Dontae Johnson, who can play either corner or safety, will be the Wolfpack's best playmaker on defense. The unit, which ranked 83rd against the pass last season, should be boosted by the return of senior linebacker D.J. Green from a season-long NCAA suspension for testing positive for a banned nutritional supplement.

There's also strength up front with three returning starters, including potential pros in junior tackles Thomas Teal and T.Y. McGill.

SPECIALISTS Both kicker Niklas Sade and punter Wil Baumann enter their third seasons as starters with room for improvement. Sade made seven of his first 10 field goal attempts but only six of his last 13. The Wolfpack ranked 90th in net punting, despite a slight improvement by Baumann. Rashard Smith is a dynamic returner in the mold of former Pack receivers T.J. Graham and Tobais Palmer.

FINAL ANALYSIS NC State athletic director Debbie Yow has already said she expects 2013 to be a rebuilding season, but Doeren won quickly at NIU with a roster he inherited from another coach. The offense will have to run the ball more effectively, and Thomas will have to learn a new scheme. The defense should be able to carry the mail, especially with the first four games at home, as the team adjusts to the new staff. Don't expect State to be a significant factor in the ACC Atlantic Division race, but there is enough talent on the roster to return to a bowl game for the fourth straight season.

SHADRACH THORNTON

THE QUOTE

"I thought the O-line was one of the weaker parts of the team. Running backs were solid, but nothing special."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**88**	**Quintin Payton (Sr.)**	84	Charlie Hegedus (So.)
WR	2	Rashard Smith (Sr.)	13	Bra'Lon Cherry (Fr.)
WR	80	Bryan Underwood (Jr.)	19	Maurice Morgan (So.)
LT	**78**	**Rob Crisp (Sr.)**	67	Quincy McKinney (So.)
LG	62	Duran Christophe (Sr.)	52	Cole Blankenship (Fr.)
C	54	Joe Thuney (So.)	59	John Tu'uta (Fr.)
RG	71	Alex Barr (So.)	50	Cam Fordham (Jr.)
RT	**74**	**Tyson Chandler (Jr.)**	73	Andy Jomantas (Jr.)
TE	82	Asa Watson (Sr.)	83	Anthony Talbert (Sr.)
QB	4	Pete Thomas (Jr.)	15	Manny Stocker (So.)
RB	10	Shadrach Thornton (So.)	**26**	**Tony Creecy (Jr.)**

DEFENSE (4)

DE	95	Art Norman (Jr.)	97	Forrest West (Sr.)
DT	**69**	**Thomas Teal (Jr.)**	98	A.J. Ferguson (Sr.)
DT	**75**	**T.Y. McGill (Jr.)**	91	K'Hadree Hooker (Fr.)
DE	90	Mike Rose (So.)	**92**	**Darryl Cato-Bishop (Sr.)**
LB	31	D.J. Green (Sr.)	5	Rodman Noel (Jr.)
LB	42	M.J. Salahuddin (So.)	49	Zach Gentry (Sr.)
LB	39	Brandon Pittman (Jr.)	46	Drew Davis (Fr.)
CB	11	Juston Burris (So.)	3	Marchez Coates (Fr.)
CB	**25**	**Dontae Johnson (Sr.)**	21	Niles Clark (Fr.)
SS	20	Hakim Jones (So.)	6	Tim Buckley (So.)
FS	14	Jarvis Byrd (Sr.)	24	Josh Stanley (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	32	Niklas Sade (Jr.)	**KR**	2	Rashard Smith (Sr.)
P	36	Wil Baumann (Jr.)	**PR**	2	Rashard Smith (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Manny Stocker, 2-0-0-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Shadrach Thornton, 154 att., 694 yds, 3 TDs
Receiving: Quintin Payton, 51 rec., 798 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Dontae Johnson, 70
Sacks: Darryl Cato-Bishop, 6.5
Interceptions: Juston Burris, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles

NATIONAL FORECAST **75**

ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **6**

Syracuse ORANGE

JEROME SMITH

Rich Schultz/Getty Images

THE QUOTE

"That was a really physical group. We had a bunch of kids banged up after playing them."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	25	Jeremiah Kobena (Jr.)	18	Chris Clark (Sr.)
WR	**88**	**Jarrod West (Jr.)**	22	Adrian Flemming (Sr.)
WR	2	Quinta Funderburk (So.)	82	Alvin Cornelius (Fr.)
LT	**60**	**Sean Hickey (Jr.)**	76	Kyle Knapp (Fr.)
LG	68	Nick Robinson (So.)	57	Omari Palmer (Fr.)
C	**59**	**Macky MacPherson (Sr.)**	78	Jason Emerich (Fr.)
RG	**55**	**Rob Trudo (So.)**	70	Jesse Wolf-Gould (Jr.)
RT	72	Ivan Foy (So.)	56	John Miller (Jr.)
TE	**85**	**Beckett Wales (Sr.)**	89	Josh Parris (Fr.)
QB		Drew Allen (Sr.)	10	Terrel Hunt (So.)
RB	**45**	**Jerome Smith (Jr.)**	23	Prince-Tyson Gulley (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	94	Robert Welsh (Jr.)		Trevon Trejo (Jr.)
DT	**96**	**Jay Bromley (Sr.)**	97	John Raymon (So.)
DT	77	Zian Jones (Sr.)	52	Eric Crume (Jr.)
DE	93	Micah Robinson (Jr.)	95	Josh Manley (Fr.)
OLB	**35**	**Dyshawn Davis (Jr.)**	41	Lewellyn Coker (Sr.)
MLB	**11**	**Marquis Spruill (Sr.)**	5	Luke Arciniega (Jr.)
OLB	38	Cam Lynch (Jr.)	7	Oliver Vigille (So.)
CB	**9**	**Ri'Shard Anderson (Sr.)**	**8**	**Keon Lyn (Sr.)**
CB	4	Brandon Reddish (Jr.)	21	Julian Whigham (So.)
SS	6	Ritchy Desir (Jr.)	2	Wayne Morgan (So.)
FS	**28**	**Jeremi Wilkes (Sr.)**	3	Durell Eskridge (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Ross Krautman (Sr.)	**KR**	25	Jeremiah Kobena (Jr.)
P	46	Jonathan Fisher (Jr.)	**PR**	6	Ritchy Desir (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Charley Loeb, 1-1-8-0, 0 TDs

Rushing: Jerome Smith, 227 att., 1,171 yds., 3 TDs

Receiving: Jarrod West, 43 rec., 588 yds., 2 TDs

Tackles: Dyshawn Davis, 69

Sacks: Cameron Lynch, 4

Interceptions: Keon Lyn, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE The most prolific offense in Syracuse history was already facing a significant transition due to the departures of quarterback Ryan Nassib, receivers Alec Lemon and Marcus Sales and the left side of the offensive line. Then the architect of the attack, Doug Marrone, left to become head coach of the Buffalo Bills and took offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett with him.

Marrone and Hackett stumbled onto the vast potential of their West Coast scheme during a 2012 preseason scrimmage in which the regular offense struggled but the two-minute phase thrived. Consequently, the no-huddle two-minute scheme became the every-down offense and took off. With Nassib setting a school record for passing yards (3,749) and Lemon and Sales combining for 136 receptions, SU averaged a school-record 476.0 yards per game. With the trio gone the honeymoon would have likely ended anyway.

Marrone's departure exacerbated the situation. New coach Scott Shafer, Marrone's former defensive coordinator, vowed to maintain the up-tempo tone and hired Miami passing game coordinator George McDonald to fill the breach. "This will be an up-tempo offense," McDonald says, "but it's also going to be physical."

7

The Syracuse offense gained at least 500 yards seven times in 2012 — a school record — en route to averaging 476.0 yards per game, also a record.

Its strength will be at running back, where Jerome Smith produced 1,171 yards as a first-year starter, and his backup, Prince-Tyson Gulley, piled up 1,112 rushing and receiving yards. The million-dollar question is, who will replace Nassib? The competition was turned upside down when Oklahoma senior Drew Allen decided to transfer to Syracuse for his final season of eligibility.

Whoever wins the job will have veteran targets in wideout Jarrod West (43 receptions for 588 yards) and tight end Beckett Wales (35 for 389) and three starters returning up front, but there is still a ton of experience and production to replace.

DEFENSE The transition on defense was easier, as Shafer directed a unit that finished No. 6 in the nation in tackles for a loss (7.69 per game) and reached into his coaching past to hire a coordinator who shared his philosophy of attacking from all angles. "His scheme is basically my scheme," says Chuck Bullough, who coached with Shafer in 2005 at Western Michigan. "We just think alike."

Bullough inherits a unit loaded with experience at tackle, linebacker and the secondary. He'll miss strong safety Shamarko Thomas (88 tackles) and end Brandon Sharpe (seven sacks) but has a nice nucleus returning. Linebacker Marquis Spruill is a fourth-year starter, and tackle Jay Bromley, linebacker Dyshawn Davis, free safety Jeremi Wilkes and cornerbacks Ri'Shard Anderson and Keon Lyn have extensive experience. They will have to rise to the occasion, as the offense will likely take a step backward.

SPECIALISTS The good news for Syracuse is that it returns every player who handled the ball on special teams last season. The bad news — each had an up-and-down season. Even Ross Krautman, who is the third-most accurate kicker in school history (48-of-61, .787), slipped to 15-of-23 (.652). The kicking rotation will likely remain intact in 2013, but Darius Kelly, an accomplished returner in junior college, will get a long look when he arrives in August.

FINAL ANALYSIS With Marrone guiding the 2012 team to a 6–1 finish, the stage was set for a smooth transition to the ACC. Marrone's departure clouded the optimism. That noted, Shafer was part of Marrone's staff and understands the program and personnel well. He knows the onus will shift from the offense to defense and special teams this season. The ability of those units to offset the inexperience on offense holds the key to SU's season.

Head Coach: Scott Shafer
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: George McDonald
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bullough
Syracuse, N.Y.
Carrier Dome (49,262)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (ACC)

August		
31	vs. Penn State #	
September		
7	at Northwestern	
14	Wagner	
21	Tulane	
October		
5	Clemson	
12	at NC State	
19	at Georgia Tech	
November		
2	Wake Forest	
9	at Maryland	
16	at Florida State	
23	Pittsburgh	
30	Boston College	

#East Rutherford, NJ

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 5-2)

Sept.	1	Northwestern	L	41–42
Sept.	8	vs. USC %	L	29–42
Sept.	15	Stony Brook	W	28–17
Sept.	22	at Minnesota	L	10–17
Oct.	5	Pittsburgh	W	14–13
Oct.	13	at Rutgers	L	15–23
Oct.	19	Connecticut	W	40–10
Oct.	27	at South Florida	W	37–36
Nov.	3	at Cincinnati	L	24–35
Nov.	10	Louisville	W	45–26
Nov.	17	at Missouri	W	31–27
Nov.	23	at Temple	W	38–20
Dec.	29	vs. West Virginia #	W	38–14

%East Rutherford #Pinstripe Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Corey Cooper, WR, Raleigh, NC
2. Wayne Williams, DT, Brooklyn, NY*
3. Mitch Kimble, QB, Jerseyville, IL
4. Austin Wilson, QB, Camp Hill, PA
5. Luke Arciniega, LB, Spanish Springs, NV*
6. Kendall Moore, OL, Chicago, IL
7. Corey Winfield, WR, St. Louis, MO
8. Tyler Provo, TE, West Palm Beach, FL
9. Brisly Estime, DB, Delray Beach, FL
10. Marqez Hodge, LB, Miami, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	30.0 ppg	3	55
Rushing	187.0 ypg	3	40
Passing	289.0 ypg	2	29
Total	476.0 ypg	1	17
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	6	46
Rushing	144.7 ypg	5	43
Passing	234.2 ypg	5	62
Total	378.9 ypg	5	48
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
-2	-0.15	5	69

Wake Forest
DEMON DEACONS

NATIONAL FORECAST **70**
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Jim Grobe
Record at School: 73-74 (12 years)
Career Record: 106-107-1 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steed Lobotzke
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Knorr
Winston-Salem, NC
BB&T Field (31,500)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (ACC)

August	
29	Presbyterian
September	
6	at Boston College
14	UL Monroe
21	at Army
28	at Clemson
October	
5	NC State
19	Maryland
26	at Miami
November	
2	at Syracuse
9	Florida State
23	Duke
30	at Vanderbilt

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Sept.	1	Liberty	W	20-17
Sept.	8	North Carolina	W	28-27
Sept.	15	at Florida State	L	0-52
Sept.	22	Army	W	49-37
Sept.	29	Duke	L	27-34
Oct.	6	at Maryland	L	14-19
Oct.	20	at Virginia	W	16-10
Oct.	25	Clemson	L	13-42
Nov.	3	Boston College	W	28-14
Nov.	10	at NC State	L	6-37
Nov.	17	at Notre Dame	L	0-38
Nov.	24	Vanderbilt	L	21-55

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tyree Harris, WR, Marietta, GA
2. Dez Wortham, RB, Frisco, TX
3. Cory Helms, C, Alpharetta, GA
4. Lance Virgile, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
5. Wendell Dunn, LB, Miami, FL
6. John Armstrong, RB, Orlando, FL
7. Taylor Chambers, T, Columbia, SC
8. Josh Harris, T, Milton, GA
9. Brad Watson, CB, Round Rock, TX
10. Cameron Serigne, TE, Ashburn, VA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	18.5 ppg	12	114
Rushing	100.5 ypg	11	113
Passing	200.8 ypg	10	91
Total	301.3 ypg	11	117
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	11	91
Rushing	166.1 ypg	9	68
Passing	266.8 ypg	10	100
Total	432.8 ypg	9	88
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+8	+0.67	1	25

OFFENSE The Deacons ranked 114th in the nation in scoring last season, mainly because of a porous offensive line riddled by injuries. If starters Steven Chase (knee) and Antonio Ford (broken leg) can return to form quickly in the fall, the line should be improved. Three talented redshirt freshmen will add depth.

Coach Jim Grobe wants to move from being pass-heavy to a misdirection running attack, a version of which he used with great success for his first five years at Wake Forest.

A diverse attack would give quarterback Tanner Price, a senior with 34 starts and more than 6,600 passing yards, better working conditions. Last season, he struggled with little time to throw, shaky receivers and no downfield threat. He hasn't been a dual-threat quarterback since high school, though, and the spring results were a little messy.

Michael Campanaro's 7.9 catches per game last year were second-best in ACC history, and he'll be able to use his running ability out of the slot in the new offense. The Deacons are still looking for someone to step forward beside him.

Running backs Josh Harris (speed) and Deandre Martin (power) formed an unimpressive timeshare last season, although they didn't have many holes to exploit. They'll be pushed by rising star Joshua Wilhite.

15-5

Jim Grobe is 15-5 against the other three ACC teams in the state dating back to the 2005 season.

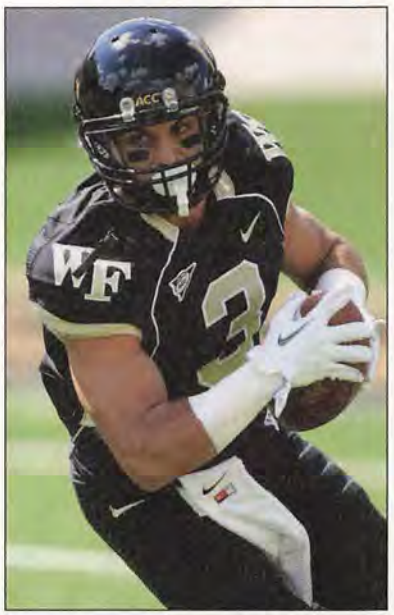
DEFENSE Last year's defense had problems up front, which eventually translated into problems in the secondary. Both units are more experienced and healthy — playmakers Nikita Whitlock (nose guard) and Merrill Noel (cornerback) were slowed by injuries — and they sandwich an outstanding linebacking unit. Whitlock (14 tackles for a loss in 2011) anchors an all-senior defensive line. Finally, they'll be backed up by some talented young players (look out for Desmond Floyd) after wearing down the last two seasons.

The linebackers have the speed to pressure the passer and create turnovers, two things that have fallen off dramatically from Grobe's best teams. Justin Jackson, who led the Deacons in tackles, could be an All-ACC performer, and Mike Olson is solid inside. Zachary Allen looked like a star on the outside before a shoulder injury sidelined him. But it's the youngsters who have the staff drooling: Brandon Chubb, Teddy Matthews and Kevis Jones lead a talented group that could push into starting roles at any point.

Without a pass rush, the unprotected secondary struggled in 2012. However, Kevin Johnson and Noel both could be All-ACC corners. Neither safety — A.J. Marshall or James Ward — had played the position before last year, and experience should help their decision-making match their physical skills.

SPECIALISTS Redshirt freshman Chad Hedlund hit his only three field goals after taking the job late in the year. Alex Kinal, a former Australian Rules kicker, got plenty of practice as he punted an ACC-record 95 times. Wake's return teams have been average at best in recent years despite speedy returners.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a crucial season for the program. Grobe hasn't had a winning record since the 2006-08 bowl streak, and last year was filled with problems, including uncharacteristic off-the-field issues. This year's team fits Grobe's formula, though, relying on at least 14 seniors to play key roles. He loves the redshirt freshmen challenging for spots and admits that a better attitude surrounds the program. "You can sense that there's a lot of guys who like to play football," he says. "That's maybe something we've missed for a little while. We haven't quite had that spark that makes you feel that everybody's loving it."



MICHAEL CAMPANARO

THE QUOTE

"They are going to be very well coached, really solid all the way around, but as far as talent, nothing stood out."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	**Michael Campanaro (Sr.)**	5	Orville Reynolds (Jr.)
WR	26	**Sherman Ragland III (So.)**	86	**Brandon Terry (Jr.)**
LT	73	Steven Chase (Sr.)	71	Hunter Goodwin (So.)
LG	59	Antonio Ford (Jr.)	78	Ty Hayworth (Fr.)
C	60	**Whit Barnes (Sr.)**	72	Cody Preble (So.)
RG	75	**Frank Souza (Sr.)**	62	Joel Suggs (Fr.)
RT	63	Dylan Intemann (So.)	77	Will Smith (Fr.)
TE	89	Spencer Bishop (Sr.)	85	Neil Basford (Jr.)
QB	10	**Tanner Price (Sr.)**	13	Tyler Cameron (Fr.)
FB	44	Ben Emert (Jr.)	43	Jordan Garside (Jr.)
RB	25	**Josh Harris (Sr.)**	21	Deandre Martin (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	90	**Kris Redding (Sr.)**	94	Desmond Floyd (So.)
NG	50	**Nikita Whitlock (Sr.)**	36	Tylor Harris (So.)
DE	98	**Zach Thompson (Sr.)**	91	Johnny Garcia (Jr.)
WLB	48	Brandon Chubb (So.)	56	Teddy Matthews (Fr.)
MLB	41	**Mike Olson (Sr.)**	54	Britt Cherry (So.)
ROB	39	**Justin Jackson (Sr.)**	46	Steve Donatell (Fr.)
LOU	35	Zachary Allen (Jr.)	37	Kevis Jones (Fr.)
CB	9	**Kevin Johnson (Jr.)**	21	Joshua Harris (So.)
CB	7	**Merrill Noel (Jr.)**	15	Allen Ramsey II (So.)
SS	23	James Ward (So.)	34	Duran Lowe (Sr.)
FS	17	**A.J. Marshall (Sr.)**	30	Ryan Janvion (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Chad Hedlund (So.)	KR	21	Deandre Martin (So.)
P	38	Alex Kinal (So.)	PR	3	Michael Campanaro (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tanner Price, 410-228-2,300-7, 12 TDs
Rushing: Josh Harris, 137 att., 608 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Michael Campanaro, 79 rec., 763 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Justin Jackson, 81
Sacks: Justin Jackson, 4
Interceptions: Kevin Johnson, 3; Zach Thompson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brad Schloss

NATIONAL FORECAST **73**

ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **7**

Duke

BLUE DEVILS

JAMISON CROWDER

THE QUOTE

"David Cutcliffe has done a great job getting the players to believe they can win. Cutcliffe is very well respected."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	3	**Jamison Crowder (Jr.)**	83	Anthony Nash (Fr.)
WR	87	Max McCaffrey (So.)	5	Brandon Braxton (Sr.)
WR	17	Isaac Blakeney (Jr.)	88	Erich Schneider (So.)
LT	73	**Takoby Cofield (Jr.)**	79	Tanner Stone (Fr.)
LG	74	**David Harding (Sr.)**	67	Lucas Patrick (So.)
C	62	Matt Skura (So.)	70	John Coleman (Sr.)
RG	77	**Laken Tomlinson (Jr.)**	52	Marcus Aprahamian (So.)
RT	72	**Perry Simmons (Sr.)**	66	Carson Ginn (So.)
TE	89	Braxton Deaver (Jr.)	80	**David Reeves (So.)**
QB	7	Anthony Boone (Jr.)	12	Parker Boehme (Fr.)
RB	25	Jela Duncan (So.)	9	Josh Snead (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	92	**Justin Foxx (Sr.)**	95	Jamal Wallace (Jr.)
NG	91	Jamal Bruce (Jr.)	98	Carlos Wray (So.)
DT	82	**Sydney Sarmiento (Sr.)**	93	A.J. Wolf (Fr.)
DE	84	**Kenny Anunike (Sr.)**	94	Jordan Dewalt-Ondijo (Jr.)
MLB	56	Kyler Brown (So.)	47	David Helton (Jr.)
WLB	59	Kelby Brown (Jr.)	54	**C.J. France (Jr.)**
ROV	40	Dwayne Norman (So.)	29	Garrett Rider (Sr.)
CB	6	**Ross Cockrell (Sr.)**	2	Evrett Edwards (Fr.)
CB	24	Garrett Patterson (Sr.)	27	DeVon Edwards (Fr.)
S	21	Anthony Young-Wiseman (Sr.)	26	Corbin McCarthy (Fr.)
S	16	Jeremy Cash (So.)	13	Michael Westray (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	35	Ross Martin (So.)	KR	23	Juwan Thompson (Sr.)
P	41	Will Monday (So.)	PR	3	Jamison Crowder (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Anthony Boone, 95-49-531-2, 5 TDs

Rushing: Jela Duncan, 109 att., 553 yds., 4 TDs

Receiving: Jamison Crowder, 76 rec., 1,074 yds., 8 TDs

Tackles: Ross Cockrell, 71

Sacks: Kenny Anunike, 5

Interceptions: Ross Cockrell, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles

OFFENSE David Cutcliffe has always taken a pro-style offensive approach, but he's well aware that the spread attack is the offense du jour in college football. Expect the Blue Devils to have more of a spread look this season if for no other reason than they now have a dual-threat quarterback taking the snaps.

Anthony Boone is much more mobile than his predecessor, Sean Renfree. Boone was impressive when pressed into duty last year, throwing for 531 yards with five touchdowns and two interceptions and rushing for 82 yards and two TDs.

Giving the quarterback carries will be just part of Cutcliffe's increased emphasis on the ground game. The Blue Devils gave a glimpse of what's to come when they rolled up 200 yards rushing in the Belk Bowl, using a tailback rotation of Jela Duncan, Josh Snead and Juwan Thompson.

If Duke's going to achieve true offensive balance — and you know that the Blue Devils are still going to throw it and that junior wideout Jamison Crowder is going to put up big numbers — it will have to get continued improvement from its offensive line. There are no excuses anymore for this unit, which features four returning starters and a handful of other returnees with playing experience. Cutcliffe believes junior guard Laken Tomlinson can be one of the best at his position in the ACC.

280.0

Duke gave up a whopping 280 yards rushing per game during its last five games. Not coincidentally, it lost all five.

DEFENSE An improved ground game won't help the Blue Devils much if their defense can't keep opponents from racking up huge rushing totals — a frequent issue in 2012.

Duke's hoping that an experienced defensive line — three seniors and a fourth-year junior are expected to start there — will plug some of the gaps. The backups are also battle-tested as well, which should allow for frequent substitutions and combat the fourth quarter fatigue that has been Duke's bugaboo in past seasons. The D-line will also be asked to get to the quarterback early and often. Otherwise, an inexperienced secondary, which struggled badly with giving up big plays last season, could be ripe for the picking.

One thing to watch in preseason camp will be the status of junior linebacker Kelby Brown. A Freshman All-American in 2010, Brown has since suffered through two injuries to his right ACL. If he's back at full strength — and he's expected to be — then Duke has a dynamic playmaker to go with cornerback Russ Cockrell and end Kenny Anunike.

SPECIALISTS Duke used freshmen at both placekicker and punter last season and lived to tell the tale. Kicker Ross Martin's leg proved to be both accurate (20-of-23 field goals) and strong (2-of-2 from 50-plus yards). Punter Will Monday was named first-team All-ACC after averaging 44.6 yards per punt. Meanwhile in the return game, Duke must find a replacement for Lee Butler, who handled much of the duties on both punts and kicks. The Devils ranked sixth in the nation in punt returns in 2012 but 114th in kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The good news is that the 2012 Duke season was not a flash in the pan. If anything, the 2013 team has more experience and more talent across the board. But there are still issues that need to be addressed — run defense, anyone? — and there is the fact that the rest of the ACC has improved right alongside the Blue Devils.

Duke is certainly capable of running the table with its non-conference schedule, and there are several winnable ACC games out there — Pittsburgh at home on Sept. 21 comes to mind — but Duke doesn't have much margin for error if it wants to reach a bowl game for the second straight season.

Head Coach: David Cutcliffe
Record at School: 21-40 (5 years)
Career Record: 65-69 (11 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Scottie Montgomery, Kurt Roper
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Jim Collins, Jim Knowles
Durham, NC
Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 5-7, 2-6 (ACC)

August	
31	North Carolina Central
September	
7	at Memphis
14	Georgia Tech
21	Pittsburgh
28	Troy
October	
12	Navy
19	at Virginia
26	at Virginia Tech
November	
9	NC State
16	Miami (Fla.)
23	at Wake Forest
30	at North Carolina

2012 RESULTS (6-7, 3-5)

Sept.	1	FIU	W	46-26
Sept.	8	at Stanford	L	13-50
Sept.	15	North Carolina Central	W	54-17
Sept.	22	Memphis	W	38-14
Sept.	29	at Wake Forest	W	34-27
Oct.	6	Virginia	W	42-17
Oct.	13	at Virginia Tech	L	20-41
Oct.	20	North Carolina	W	33-30
Oct.	27	at Florida State	L	7-48
Nov.	3	Clemson	L	20-56
Nov.	17	at Georgia Tech	L	24-42
Nov.	24	Miami (Fla.)	L	45-52
Dec.	27	vs. Cincinnati #	L	34-48

#Belk Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dominic McDonald, LB, Longwood, FL
2. Evrett Edwards, CB, Woodbridge, VA
3. Johnell Barnes, WR, Fort Myers, FL
4. Austin Davis, OL, Mansfield, TX
5. Parker Boehme, QB, Jacksonville, FL
6. Joseph Ajeigbe, RB, Riverside, CA
7. Sterling Korona, OL, San Antonio, TX
8. Deondre Singleton, CB, Dacula, GA
9. Chris Holmes, DB, Fredericksburg, VA
10. Quay Chambers, QB, Monroe, NC

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	5	44
Rushing	125.2 ypg	8	98
Passing	283.9 ypg	5	31
Total	409.2 ypg	7	55
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	36.0 ppg	12	107
Rushing	201.5 ypg	10	101
Passing	267.6 ypg	11	101
Total	469.2 ypg	11	105
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+2	+0.15	5	50

Georgia Tech
YELLOW JACKETS

NATIONAL FORECAST **34**
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Paul Johnson
Record at School: 41-26 (5 years)
Career Record: 148-65 (16 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Paul Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: Ted Roof
Atlanta, GA
Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (ACC)

August		
31	Elon	
September		
14	at Duke	
21	North Carolina	
26	Virginia Tech	
October		
5	at Miami (Fla.)	
12	at BYU	
19	Syracuse	
26	at Virginia	
November		
2	Pittsburgh	
14	at Clemson	
23	Alabama A&M	
30	Georgia	

2012 RESULTS (7-7, 5-3)

Sept.	3	at Virginia Tech	(ot)	L	17-20
Sept.	8	Presbyterian		W	59-3
Sept.	15	Virginia		W	56-20
Sept.	22	Miami (Fla.)	(ot)	L	36-42
Sept.	29	Middle Tennessee		L	28-49
Oct.	6	at Clemson		L	31-47
Oct.	20	Boston College		W	37-17
Oct.	27	BYU		L	17-41
Nov.	3	at Maryland		W	33-13
Nov.	10	at North Carolina		W	68-50
Nov.	17	Duke		W	42-28
Nov.	24	at Georgia		L	10-42
Dec.	1	vs. Florida State %		L	21-15
Dec.	31	vs. USC #		W	21-7

%Charlotte #Sun Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shamire Devine, OL, Atlanta, GA
2. Travis Custis, RB, Hampton, GA
3. Chris Griffin, OL, Panacea, FL
4. Harrison Butker, K, Decatur, GA
5. John Marvin, CB, Fort Walton Beach, FL
6. Ricky Jeune, WR, Spring Valley, NJ
7. Kevin Robbins, DL, Forestville, MD
8. Justin Akins, DL, Jenkinsburg, GA
9. Donovan Wilson, RB, Dublin, OH
10. Darius Commissiong, DL, Forestville, MD

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	33.6 ppg	4	34
Rushing	311.2 ypg	1	4
Passing	129.9 ypg	12	115
Total	441.1 ypg	4	35
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	28.3 ppg	7	65
Rushing	144.2 ypg	5	41
Passing	229.8 ypg	5	58
Total	374.0 ypg	5	43
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+4	+0.29	4	45

OFFENSE Georgia Tech coach Paul Johnson is starting his sixth season, but he'll be working with just his third starting quarterback. Joshua Nesbitt and Tevin Washington had their strengths as option quarterbacks, but Vad Lee should offer a new dynamic to the Yellow Jackets' spread-option scheme. Lee is a much better passer than his predecessors but also has the speed to outrun defenses. Johnson studied video of the San Francisco 49ers' read-option scheme in hopes of putting Lee and backup Justin Thomas in a Pistol formation to utilize their run-pass talents.

"As far as getting playmakers the ball and getting to the outside, getting to the edge, I think it's an advantage," Lee says. "It's kind of a twist for any defense because everyone's used to seeing us in the standard spread formation."

Lee will play behind an offensive line that brings back 94 career starts among six players, a group that did its typical strong work in producing the No. 4 rushing offense in the FBS.

Georgia Tech is remarkably green at wide receiver — Darren Waller is the leading returning wideout with eight catches — which may hinder the development of the passing game. But the running game should again be stout with B-back (fullback) David Sims and A-back (slotback) Robert Godhigh both returning.

Points typically haven't been a problem for Georgia Tech in Johnson's tenure. If Lee lives up the hype, the Jackets will be difficult to stop.

100
Georgia Tech will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Grant Field —now more commonly known as Bobby Dodd Stadium. It is the oldest on-campus stadium in the FBS.

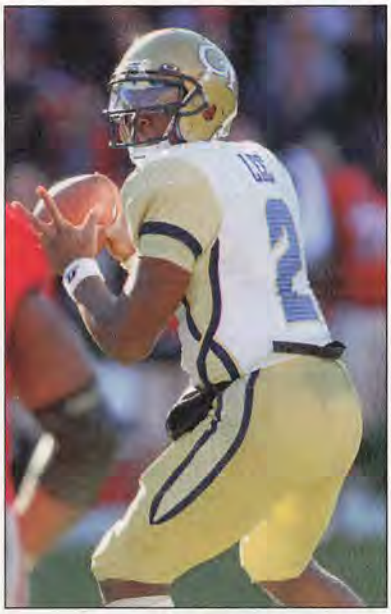
DEFENSE To go forward, the Yellow Jackets had to go backward. Johnson fired defensive coordinator Al Groh midway through last season after they had surrendered 40-plus points in three consecutive games for the first time in school history. Johnson hired alumnus Ted Roof, formerly at Penn State and the leader of the Yellow Jackets' famed "Black Watch" defense of the 1980s. Roof has returned Georgia Tech from Groh's 3-4 to the 4-3 and will be tasked with improving a unit that hasn't ranked in the top 25 in the country in total defense since 2008.

With eight starters back, Roof has plenty of talent at his disposal. Jeremiah Attaochu, who is making the move from outside linebacker to end, and cornerbacks Jemea Thomas and Louis Young look like future NFL Draft picks. Linebacker Jabari Hunt-Days is a star on the rise.

There will no doubt be some growing pains with the transition to the new scheme, but Johnson is confident he has the right coordinator in place to run his defense.

SPECIALISTS Returner Jamal Golden was the only player in the nation last year to finish in the top 10 in both kickoff and punt return average. He also became the first Yellow Jacket to return a kickoff for a touchdown since 1998. And he did it twice. Harrison Butker, an incoming freshman, is the favorite to take over as the placekicker, an area in which the Jackets have struggled the last two years.

FINAL ANALYSIS With 16 returning starters and a team loaded with seniors, the 2013 Yellow Jackets could be Johnson's best team since the 2009 Orange Bowl squad. Much depends on how consistent Lee can be, and if Georgia Tech can handle a tough schedule in which it will play four Coastal Division opponents in a row, including Virginia Tech on five days' rest. The Jackets will need to find a way to handle division rivals Miami and Virginia Tech as well. While there have been a number of close calls, Johnson is a combined 2–8 against the Canes and Hokies. Georgia Tech is hardly a favorite, but it has the ingredients to win the division and play for the ACC title.



VAD LEE

THE QUOTE
"You look at Tech, they struggled all year, but they still found a way to get bowl-eligible and enter the ACC title game, even if it was a fluke. They are not going to be irrelevant."
— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	88	**Darren Waller (Jr.)**	26	Travin Henry (Fr.)
WR	80	Anthony Autry (So.)	84	Micheal Summers (Fr.)
LT	64	**Ray Beno (Sr.)**	53	Bryan Chamberlain (So.)
LG	70	**Shaquille Mason (Jr.)**	78	Trey Braun (So.)
C	50	**Jay Finch (Sr.)**	57	Catlin Alford (Jr.)
RG	52	**Will Jackson (Sr.)**	60	Thomas O'Reilly (So.)
RT	72	**Morgan Bailey (Jr.)**	79	Chase Roberts (Fr.)
QB	2	Vad Lee (So.)	5	Justin Thomas (Fr.)
BB	20	**David Sims (Sr.)**	37	Zach Laskey (Jr.)
AB	25	**Robert Godhigh (Sr.)**	31	Deon Hill (Jr.)
AB	7	B.J. Bostic (Jr.)	10	Synjyn Days (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	45	**Jeremiah Attaochu (Sr.)**	39	Chaz Cheeks (So.)
DT	99	Euclid Cummings (Sr.)	91	Patrick Gamble (Fr.)
NT	96	Adam Gotsis (So.)	97	Shawn Green (Jr.)
DE	93	**Emmanuel Dieke (Sr.)**	56	Anthony Williams (Jr.)
OLB	11	**Brandon Watts (Sr.)**	48	Nick Menocal (Jr.)
MLB	32	**Jabari Hunt-Days (So.)**	30	Daniel Drummond (Sr.)
OLB	54	**Quayshawn Nealy (Jr.)**	35	Tyler Marcordes (So.)
CB	8	**Louis Young (Sr.)**	4	Jamal Golden (Jr.)
CB	14	**Jemea Thomas (Sr.)**	28	D.J. White (So.)
S	1	**Isaiah Johnson (Sr.)**	27	Lynn Griffin (Fr.)
S	15	Fred Holton (Jr.)	18	Chris Milton (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Harrison Butker (Fr.)	KR	4	Jamal Golden (Jr.)
P	82	Sean Poole (Sr.)	PR	4	Jamal Golden (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Vad Lee, 56-27-596-3, 4 TDs
Rushing: Zach Laskey, 133 att., 697 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Robert Godhigh, 15 rec., 227 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Jemea Thomas, 86
Sacks: Euclid Cummings, 3
Interceptions: Jemea Thomas, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

NATIONAL FORECAST **29**

ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **1**

Miami HURRICANES

DUKE JOHNSON

Bruce Schwartzman

THE QUOTE

"Al Golden did a good job changing the culture. He's good. I like him. I know a majority of our guys feel the same way."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	4	**Phillip Dorsett (Jr.)**	86	Herb Waters (So.)
WR	1	**Allen Hurns (Sr.)**	80	Rashawn Scott (Jr.)
LT	79	**Malcolm Bunche (Jr.)**	74	Ereck Flowers (So.)
LG	70	**Jon Feliciano (Jr.)**	64	Hunter Wells (So.)
C	62	**Shane McDermott (Jr.)**	75	Jared Wheeler (Sr.)
RG	65	**Brandon Linder (Sr.)**	63	Danny Isidora (Fr.)
RT	77	**Seantrel Henderson (Sr.)**	74	Ereck Flowers (So.)
TE	46	Clive Walford (Jr.)	82	Asante Cleveland (Sr.)
QB	17	**Stephen Morris (Sr.)**	11	Ryan Williams (Jr.)
FB	33	Maurice Hagens (Sr.)		Gus Edwards (Fr.)
TB	8	Duke Johnson (So.)	25	Dallas Crawford (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	71	**Anthony Chickillo (Jr.)**	99	Jelani Hamilton (So.)
DT	91	**Olsen Pierre (Jr.)**	72	Earl Moore (So.)
DT	96	Curtis Porter (Sr.)	93	Luther Robinson (Sr.)
DE	51	**Shayon Green (Sr.)**	94	Kelvin Cain (Sr.)
SLB	36	Alex Figueroa (Fr.)	17	Tyriq McCord (So.)
MLB	56	Raphael Kirby (So.)	59	Jimmy Gaines (Sr.)
WLB	52	**Denzel Perryman (Jr.)**	31	Tyrone Cornileus (Sr.)
CB	21	Antonio Crawford (So.)	3	Tracy Howard (So.)
CB	37	Ladarius Gunter (Jr.)	11	Larry Hope (Fr.)
S	2	Deon Bush (So.)	30	A.J. Highsmith (Sr.)
S	26	Rayshawn Jenkins (So.)	22	Kacy Rodgers II (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Matt Goudis (So.)	KR 8	Duke Johnson (So.)
P		Pat O'Donnell (Sr.)	PR 4	Phillip Dorsett (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Stephen Morris, 421-245-3,345-7, 21 TDs

Rushing: Duke Johnson, 139 att., 947 yds., 10 TDs

Receiving: Phillip Dorsett, 58 rec., 842 yds., 4 TDs

Tackles: Shayon Green, 67

Sacks: Anthony Chickillo, 4

Interceptions: Jimmy Gaines, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Stephen Morris finished his junior season as one of the hottest quarterbacks in college football. In his final four games, Morris completed 60 percent of his passes and threw for 11 touchdowns without an interception. Equipped with a big arm and great feet, Morris is also durable, tough and now has the experience and playmakers around him to thrive.

Tailback Duke Johnson didn't even start on a full-time basis as a freshman, but he's one of the best players in the ACC. After breaking Clinton Portis' school freshman rushing record, Johnson will see his workload increase substantially. Johnson has amazing vision, quickness and speed, and his versatility as a runner and receiver makes him a defensive nightmare.

There's no shortage of solid pass-catching options on the roster. Back are Phillip Dorsett and Rashawn Scott, the team's leading receivers last season. Dorsett isn't very big, but he's plenty dangerous. Scott and Allen Hurns give the offense a pair of big receivers who can go up and catch the ball. The tight end position has been a black hole on offense recently, but Clive Walford finished last season by catching a combined seven passes for 234 yards and two touchdowns against USF and Duke.

366

Miami gave up a school-record 366 points last season (in 12 games). The old mark of 314 points came in 1984 and 2008 during 13-game seasons.

All five starters return on the offensive line. When right tackle Seantrel Henderson is focused, he can be dominant. He's big enough to swallow defensive ends and light enough on his feet not to get beat on speed rushes.

DEFENSE Miami's defense was awful last season, allowing school records in virtually every important statistical category. Much of the blame goes to a defensive line that couldn't rush the passer or stop the run. Despite leading the team with four sacks, end Anthony Chickillo endured a sophomore slump. Shayon Green, playing the end opposite Chickillo, is solid against the run but didn't have a single sack despite starting every game. When Curtis Porter is healthy — which isn't often — he might be the team's best defensive tackle.

Denzel Perryman is a ferocious hitter who has started games at middle and outside linebacker. Perryman isn't particularly big, but he's relentless and delivers blows that separate runners from the ball and their senses. Raphael Kirby was the starter at middle linebacker in spring practice and did nothing to make coaches think he can't do the job. Disciplinary issues ended the Miami careers of starting linebackers Gionni Paul and Eddie Johnson.

Ladarius Gunter is a big cornerback with the ability to play the run and pass equally well. Tracy Howard, Miami's top recruit in 2012, has yet to make an impact and is playing behind Antonio Crawford at the other corner spot. The safety positions will be manned by a pair of ball-hawking, athletic sophomores — Deon Bush and Rayshawn Jenkins.

SPECIALISTS Matt Goudis is regarded as a better kicker than punter, but he had a chance to fill both vacancies until post-graduate Cincinnati transfer Pat O'Donnell arrived on campus. Johnson was one of the nation's top kickoff returners and, despite an increased workload on offense, will not see his special teams chores reduced.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's been a decade since Miami last won 10 games in a season, and the lack of success has gradually eroded expectations. But things could be on the upswing in Coral Gables despite a never-ending NCAA investigation that has dogged Al Golden in his two-plus seasons as coach. With eight starters returning for a potentially explosive offense, four starters back on a rebuilding defense and a manageable schedule, the Hurricanes are a legitimate contender for a Coastal Division title and their first trip to the ACC title game.

Head Coach: Al Golden
Record at School: 13-11 (2 years)
Career Record: 40-45 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: James Coley
Defensive Coordinator: Mark D'Onofrio
Coral Gables, FL
Sun Life Stadium (75,540)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-4, 6-2 (ACC)

August		
30	Florida Atlantic	
September		
7	Florida	
21	Savannah State	
28	at South Florida	
October		
5	Georgia Tech	
17	at North Carolina	
26	Wake Forest	
November		
2	at Florida State	
9	Virginia Tech	
16	at Duke	
23	Virginia	
29	at Pittsburgh	

2012 RESULTS (7-5, 5-3)

Sept.	1	at Boston College		W	41–32
Sept.	8	at Kansas State		L	13–52
Sept.	15	Bethune-Cookman		W	38–10
Sept.	22	at Georgia Tech	(ot)	W	42–36
Sept.	29	NC State		W	44–37
Oct.	6	vs. Notre Dame %		L	3–41
Oct.	13	North Carolina		L	14–18
Oct.	20	Florida State		L	20–33
Nov.	1	Virginia Tech		W	30–12
Nov.	10	at Virginia		L	40–41
Nov.	17	South Florida		W	40–9
Nov.	24	at Duke		W	52–45

%Chicago

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derrick Griffin, WR, Rosenberg, TX
2. Al-Quadin Muhammad, DE, Irvington, NJ
3. Stacy Coley, WR, Pompano Beach, FL
4. Kevin Olsen, QB, Wayne, NJ
5. Artie Burns, CB, Miami, FL
6. Standish Dobard, TE, Belle Chase, LA
7. Jermaine Grace, LB, Miami Gardens, FL
8. Cornelius Elder, ATH, Nashville, TN
9. Jamal Carter, DB, Homestead, FL
10. Beau Sandland, TE, Woodland Hills, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	31.4 ppg	6	49
Rushing	144.8 ypg	6	81
Passing	295.4 ypg	3	25
Total	440.2 ypg	5	37
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	30.5 ppg	10	82
Rushing	217.9 ypg	12	112
Passing	268.5 ypg	12	102
Total	486.4 ypg	12	116
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+7	+0.58	2	30

North Carolina

TAR HEELS

NATIONAL FORECAST **38**
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Larry Fedora
Record at School: 8-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 42-23 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Blake Anderson
Associate Head Coach for Defense: Vic Koenning
Chapel Hill, NC
Kenan Memorial Stadium (63,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (ACC)

August	
29	at South Carolina
September	
7	Middle Tennessee
21	at Georgia Tech
28	East Carolina
October	
5	at Virginia Tech
17	Miami
26	Boston College
November	
2	at NC State
9	Virginia
16	at Pittsburgh
23	Old Dominion
30	Duke

2012 RESULTS (8-4, 5-3)

Sept.	1	Elon	W	62-0
Sept.	8	at Wake Forest	L	27-28
Sept.	15	at Louisville	L	34-39
Sept.	22	East Carolina	W	27-6
Sept.	29	Idaho	W	66-0
Oct.	6	Virginia Tech	W	48-34
Oct.	13	at Miami	W	18-14
Oct.	20	at Duke	L	30-33
Oct.	27	NC State	W	43-35
Nov.	10	Georgia Tech	L	50-68
Nov.	15	at Virginia	W	37-13
Nov.	24	Maryland	W	45-38

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Mitch Trubisky, QB, Mentor, OH
2. Greg Webb, DT, Erial, NJ
3. T.J. Logan, RB, Greensboro, NC
4. Brian Walker, CB, Charlotte, NC
5. Dajaun Drennon, DE, Clementon, NJ
6. Johnathan Howard, WR, Rochelle, GA
7. Jordan Fieulleteau, WR, Raleigh, NC
8. Khris Francis, RB, Durham, NC
9. Lucas Crowley, OL, Ponte Vedra, FL
10. R.J. Prince, OL, Albemarle, NC

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	40.6 ppg	2	8
Rushing	193.8 ypg	3	33
Passing	291.8 ypg	4	26
Total	485.6 ypg	2	14
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	25.7 ppg	5	53
Rushing	142.7 ypg	4	40
Passing	246.9 ypg	8	81
Total	389.6 ypg	6	56
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+7	+0.58	2	30

OFFENSE Say this much for North Carolina coach Larry Fedora: The man knows how to coach offense. Fedora used his fast-paced attack to help the Tar Heels set nearly 40 school records on offense in his first season at the helm, and more marks could fall in 2013.

Third-year starting quarterback Bryn Renner, who made big strides in the new system during the second half of last season, is the undisputed leader of the team. Renner posted four consecutive 300-yard passing games to close out 2012, and he picked up in the offseason right where he left off.

Renner won't have do-it-all running back Giovani Bernard behind him this season, but UNC features a nice 1-2 punch on the ground with A.J. Blue and speedster Romar Morris. In the passing game, wide receiver Quinshad Davis and tight end Eric Ebron are two targets that any team would love to have.

The question facing UNC's offense is up front, where the Tar Heels must replace three-fifths of the ACC's top offensive line. Left tackle James Hurst is among the nation's best players at his position, and Russell Bodine is a returning starter at center, but UNC needs some solid contributors to emerge at right tackle and both guard spots.

DEFENSE The outlook isn't as rosy on this side of the ball. A unit that gave up at least 33 points in six games last season must replace its only two standout performers, linebacker Kevin Reddick and defensive tackle Sylvester Williams.

74.8

North Carolina averaged 74.8 offensive plays per game in 2012 after averaging 63.5 offensive plays per game over the previous five seasons.

Kareem Martin is UNC's best returning defensive player, and he provides a legitimate pass-rush threat from his spot at end. Vocal leader Tim Jackson, who has played inside and outside during his career, takes over for Williams at tackle.

Tommy Heffernan was solid at linebacker a year ago, but UNC also needs Travis Hughes to emerge at that position and fulfill his potential. Finding playmakers at Bandit and Ram, two hybrid positions that place a premium on versatility in UNC's 4-2-5 scheme, also is important. The Tar Heels have little returning experience at either spot.

The secondary, where UNC repeatedly gave up big plays a year ago, remains a concern. Senior Tre Boston led the team in tackles and tied for the lead in interceptions in 2012, but he must do a better job preventing receivers from getting behind him.

SPECIALISTS Fedora places a heavy emphasis on special teams, using many of his offensive and defensive starters in the kicking game. Morris and Sean Tapley are dynamic kickoff returners, but UNC must find someone to catch punts (muffs were a problem during the spring). Kicker Thomas Moore gained some experience over the last two years by filling in when Casey Barth was injured, but he has not been effective from long range. Punter Tommy Hibbard enjoyed a breakout season in 2012 while helping the Tar Heels lead the ACC in net punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS Fans who like offense should get ready for another exciting season in Chapel Hill. Points should be plentiful once again — on both sides of the scoreboard.

The Tar Heels have sufficient firepower on offense as long as the offensive line can hold its own during a transition year up front and Renner can stay healthy. The latter, of course, is at least somewhat dependent upon the former.

On the other side of the ball, UNC players and coaches believe that a year of experience will lead to fewer missed assignments and penalties. With little proven talent on defense, the question is whether the Tar Heels can produce enough stops to emerge victorious from shootouts. The answer will go a long way in determining whether UNC can contend for the ACC Coastal Division crown.

BRYN RENNER

THE QUOTE

"Larry Fedora, I thought he did a good job in his first year. The biggest thing was the tempo they played with. They are really fast."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**14**	**Quinshad Davis (So.)**		Johnathan Howard (Fr.)
WR	**6**	**Sean Tapley (Jr.)**	5	T.J. Thorpe (So.)
WR	28	Kendrick Singleton (So.)	29	Damien Washington (So.)
LT	**68**	**James Hurst (Sr.)**	69	Nick Appel (Jr.)
LG	70	Caleb Peterson (Fr.)	62	David Collins (Sr.)
C	**60**	**Russell Bodine (Jr.)**	51	Jarrod James (So.)
RG	78	Landon Turner (So.)	79	J.J. Patterson (Fr.)
RT	72	Kiaro Holts (So.)	71	Jon Heck (Fr.)
TE	**85**	**Eric Ebron (Jr.)**	80	Jack Tabb (Jr.)
QB	**2**	**Bryn Renner (Sr.)**	10	Mitch Trubisky (Fr.)
RB	15	A.J. Blue (Sr.)	21	Romar Morris (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**95**	**Kareem Martin (Sr.)**	90	Jessie Rogers (So.)
DT	**93**	**Tim Jackson (Sr.)**	96	Ethan Farmer (Jr.)
DT	97	Shawn Underwood (Jr.)	74	Devonte Brown (Jr.)
BAN	52	Norkeithus Otis (Jr.)	42	Shakeel Rashad (So.)
LB	9	Travis Hughes (Jr.)	**55**	**Tommy Heffernan (Jr.)**
LB	33	Nathan Staub (So.)	47	Dan Mastromatteo (So.)
RAM	20	Brandon Ellerbe (Jr.)	36	Ryan Mangum (So.)
CB	**4**	**Jabari Price (Sr.)**	37	T.J. Jiles (So.)
CB	**7**	**Tim Scott (Jr.)**	35	Malik Simmons (So.)
S	**10**	**Tre Boston (Sr.)**	25	Kameron Jackson (So.)
S	3	Sam Smiley (So.)	**27**	**Darien Rankin (So.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	4	Thomas Moore (Jr.)	**KR**	21	Romar Morris (So.)
P	30	Tommy Hibbard (Jr.)	**PR**		Khris Francis (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Bryn Renner, 422-276-3,356-7, 28 TDs
Rushing: A.J. Blue, 82 att., 433 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Quinshad Davis, 61 rec., 776 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Tre Boston, 86
Sacks: Kareem Martin, 4
Interceptions: Tre Boston, 4; Tim Scott, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tom DiPace

NATIONAL FORECAST **52**

ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **5**

Pittsburgh PANTHERS

DEVIN STREET

AP Photo / Chris Bernacchi

THE QUOTE

"I think Paul Chryst will do a good job getting guys to run his system. He's perfect for Pitt. They will recruit fits."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**15**	**Devin Street (Sr.)**	88	Kevin Weatherspoon (Jr.)
WR	84	Ed Tinker (Sr.)	14	Ronald Jones (Jr.)
LT	69	Adam Bisnowaty (Fr.)	70	Juantez Hollins (Sr.)
LG	**78**	**Cory King (Sr.)**	64	Shane Johnson (Jr.)
C	71	Gabe Roberts (Fr.)	57	Artie Rowell (So.)
RG	**74**	**Matt Rotheram (Jr.)**	**76**	**Ryan Schlieper (Sr.)**
RT	68	T.J. Clemmings (Jr.)		Dorian Johnson (Fr.)
TE	**86**	**J.P. Holtz (So.)**	83	Scott Orndoff (Fr.)
HB	6	Drew Carswell (Jr.)	82	Manasseh Garner (Jr.)
QB	7	Tom Savage (Sr.)	16	Chad Voytik (Fr.)
TB	34	Isaac Bennett (Jr.)	32	Malcolm Crockett (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**93**	**Bryan Murphy (Jr.)**	92	Devin Cook (So.)
DT	**97**	**Aaron Donald (Sr.)**	91	Darryl Render (So.)
NT	**50**	**Tyrone Ezell (Sr.)**	95	K.K. Mosley-Smith (Jr.)
DE	37	David Durham (Jr.)	52	Shakir Soto (Fr.)
SLB	28	Anthony Gonzalez (Jr.)	4	Bam Bradley (Fr.)
MLB	**44**	**Shane Gordon (Sr.)**	30	Mike Caprara (Fr.)
WLB	**8**	**Todd Thomas (Jr.)**	5	Ejuan Price (So.)
CB	**2**	**K'Waun Williams (Sr.)**	17	Trenton Coles (Fr.)
CB	**23**	**Lafayette Pitts (So.)**	24	Cullen Christian (Jr.)
SS	9	Ray Vinopal (Jr.)	38	Ryan Lewis (Fr.)
FS	**25**	**Jason Hendricks (Sr.)**	35	E.J. Banks (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Chris Blewitt (Fr.)	**KR** 23	Lafayette Pitts (So.)
P	92	Matt Yoklic (Sr.)	**PR** 23	Lafayette Pitts (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trey Anderson, 2-2-53-0, 0 TDs

Rushing: Isaac Bennett, 29 att., 141 yds., 3 TDs

Receiving: Devin Street, 73 rec., 975 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Jason Hendricks, 90

Sacks: Aaron Donald, 5.5

Interceptions: Jason Hendricks, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Pittsburgh makes its debut in the Atlantic Coast Conference facing more question marks than a CSI detective. Second-year coach Paul Chryst must replace three-year starting quarterback Tino Sunseri, No. 2 all-time rusher Ray Graham and blue-chip tailback Rushel Shell, who transferred during spring drills after producing 641 yards as a freshman. He was to be the centerpiece of the offense.

At quarterback, fifth-year senior Tom Savage is intriguing. Savage began his career at Rutgers as the "future" of that program, having been ranked among the top-10 prep quarterbacks in the nation. He started 11 games as a freshman in 2009, but got injured, lost his job, and transferred to Arizona in 2011. He then bolted for Pitt. The question is: Will he regain the form that made him one of the most sought-after players in the nation four years ago, or will he be a casualty of unfulfilled promise? If he struggles, dual-threat redshirt freshman Chad Voytik could take over.

Pittsburgh's top two running backs — Isaac Bennett and Malcolm Crockett — are relatively untested. The hope for Pittsburgh is that the offensive line can dominate like the ones Chryst used to oversee as coordinator at Wisconsin, easing the burden on the backs.

44.7

Pittsburgh was stout defensively last season, but allowed opponents to convert 44.7 percent on third down — worst in the Big East.

Pittsburgh features a game-breaker at receiver in Devin Street (73 catches for 975 yards last season), though he'll need one of the inexperienced receivers opposite him to emerge.

DEFENSE First-year coordinator Matt House returns eight starters from a unit that ranked 17th nationally. Senior tackle Aaron Donald is a two-time All-Big East player who ranked 12th in the nation in tackles for a loss. He and nose tackle Tyrone Ezell form a potent one-two punch in stopping the run. On the outside, the tandem of returning starter Bryan Murphy and David Durham, a converted fullback and Ohio State transfer, look to improve the Panthers' sack totals of a year ago.

The linebacking corps teems with athleticism, a necessity in facing ACC spread offenses. Middle linebacker Shane Gordon, who finished second on the team in pass breakups, is flanked by former blue-chip quarterback Anthony Gonzalez and versatile playmaker Todd Thomas.

The secondary, which helped Pitt rank 20th against the pass, is led by safety Jason Hendricks, who ranked sixth nationally in interceptions per game. Returning starting cornerbacks K'Waun Williams and Lafayette Pitts are primed for big years.

It is imperative that the defense carries Pittsburgh early while the offense transitions.

SPECIALISTS Pittsburgh must replace departed placekicker Kevin Harper, who made 20-of-27 field goals in 2012. That job will likely go to incoming freshman Chris Blewitt. Matt Yoklic returns as the punter for the third season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Change is sweeping through the Pittsburgh football program as it moves from the Big East to the ACC. But the absolute biggest storyline is what remains the same: Chryst. By returning, Chryst ended a tumultuous three-year odyssey in which Pittsburgh saw three different coaches lead its program. The next step for Chryst is to elevate a team that has been mediocre the past three seasons.

With uncertainty at quarterback and running back — and with the transition to a new conference — Pittsburgh likely will endure growing pains. The Panthers, though, could go a long way toward building instant momentum by defeating ACC foe Florida State in a nationally televised season opener at Heinz Field. Pittsburgh nearly pulled off a triple-overtime win at Notre Dame last season, so an upset isn't out of the question. Nor is a slight improvement in Chryst's second season.

Head Coach: Paul Chryst
Record at School: 6-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 6-7 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinators: Joe Rudolph
Defensive Coordinators: Matt House
Location: Pittsburgh, Pa.
Stadium: Heinz Field (65,050)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (ACC)

September	
2	Florida State
14	New Mexico
21	at Duke
28	Virginia
October	
12	at Virginia Tech
19	Old Dominion
26	at Navy
November	
2	at Georgia Tech
9	Notre Dame
16	North Carolina
23	at Syracuse
29	Miami (Fla.)

2012 RESULTS (6-7, 3-4)

Sept.	1	Youngstown State	L	17–31
Sept.	6	at Cincinnati	L	10–34
Sept.	15	Virginia Tech	W	35–17
Sept.	22	Gardner-Webb	W	55–10
Oct.	5	at Syracuse	L	13–14
Oct.	13	Louisville	L	35–45
Oct.	20	at Buffalo	W	20–6
Oct.	27	Temple	W	47–17
Nov.	3	at Notre Dame (ot)	L	26–29
Nov.	9	at Connecticut	L	17–24
Nov.	24	Rutgers	W	27–6
Dec.	1	at South Florida	W	27–3
Jan.	5	vs. Ole Miss #	L	17–38

#BBVA Compass Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dorian Johnson, OL, Belle Vernon, PA
2. Tyler Boyd, WR, Clairton, PA
3. Tra'Von Chapman, QB, Kent, OH
4. Alexander Officer, OG, Rochester, NY
5. Chris Blewitt, K, Alexandria, VA
6. Aaron Reese, OL, Fayetteville, PA
7. Terrish Webb, ATH, Clairton, PA
8. Scott Orndoff, TE, Waynesburg, PA
9. Justin Moody, DT, Philadelphia, PA
10. Shakir Soto, DE, Wilkes-Barre, PA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	26.6 ppg	4	74
Rushing	133.1 ypg	5	92
Passing	257.0 ypg	3	46
Total	390.1 ypg	4	71
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	21.1 ppg	4	23
Rushing	136.4 ypg	4	31
Passing	194.2 ypg	2	20
Total	330.5 ypg	3	17
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
+12	+0.92	1	15

Virginia CAVALIERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 62
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Mike London
Record at School: 16-21 (3 years)
Career Record: 40-26 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Fairchild
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Tenuta
Charlottesville, VA
Scott Stadium (61,500)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (ACC)

August		
31	BYU	
September		
7	Oregon	
21	VMI	
28	at Pittsburgh	
October		
5	Ball State	
12	at Maryland	
19	Duke	
26	Georgia Tech	
November		
2	Clemson	
9	at North Carolina	
23	at Miami	
30	Virginia Tech	

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Sept.	1	Richmond	W	43-19
Sept.	8	Penn State	W	17-16
Sept.	15	at Georgia Tech	L	20-56
Sept.	22	at TCU	L	7-27
Sept.	29	Louisiana Tech	L	38-44
Oct.	6	at Duke	L	17-42
Oct.	13	Maryland	L	20-27
Oct.	20	Wake Forest	L	10-16
Nov.	3	at NC State	W	33-6
Nov.	10	Miami	W	41-40
Nov.	15	North Carolina	L	13-37
Nov.	24	at Virginia Tech	L	14-17

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Taquan Mizzell, RB, Virginia Beach, VA
2. Tim Harris, CB, Richmond, VA
3. Kirk Garner, CB, Olney, MD
4. Corwin Cutler, QB, Chesapeake, VA
5. Micah Kiser, LB, Baltimore, MD
6. Andre Levrone, WR, Laurels, MD
7. LaChaston Smith, LB, Statesville, NC
8. Donta Wilkins, DT, Woodbridge, VA
9. George Adeosun, OL, Alpharetta, GA
10. Sadiq Olanrewaju, OL, Gaithersburg, MD

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	22.8 ppg	9	93
Rushing	128.5 ypg	7	96
Passing	268.0 ypg	6	37
Total	396.5 ypg	8	62
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	28.9 ppg	8	70
Rushing	144.9 ypg	6	44
Passing	208.4 ypg	4	33
Total	353.3 ypg	4	28
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-14	-1.17	12	110

OFFENSE Virginia has a new offensive coordinator and associate head coach for offense, but basically the same scheme and personnel. New coordinator Steve Fairchild isn't attempting to re-invent the Cavaliers' pro-style attack. He'd just like to improve it, particularly the running game, where the primary need is for more physical play up front. He'll get help in that regard from associate head coach Tom O'Brien, the former head man at Boston College and NC State.

Who's the quarterback? That's the annual question. Tired of the revolving-door approach, Michael Rocco, who started eight games in 2012, transferred to Richmond for his final season of eligibility. That would seem to leave Phillip Sims, who started four games, as the clear No. 1, right? Not so fast. David Watford, who shuttled with Rocco in 2011 and redshirted a year ago, is back in the mix. So is redshirt freshman Greyson Lambert.

The key to beefing up the running game is an offensive line that was underwhelming a year ago. The return of tackle Morgan Moses, one of four starters back, gives the Cavaliers a big piece to build around. A former prep All-American, Moses flirted with entering the NFL Draft, but thought better. After an underwhelming junior year, he's re-dedicated himself.

There's no shortage of tailbacks, led by Kevin Parks, who was sixth in the ACC in rushing in 2012. There's also speed and experience at receiver, with senior Tim Smith and juniors Darius Jennings and Dominique Terrell all returning. Smith averaged 20.3 yards on 20 catches last season.

12
With just eight fumble recoveries and four interceptions, Virginia's 12 takeaways ranked last in the ACC.

The fullback and tight end positions figure prominently in plans for a beefed-up running game. Tight end Jake McGee, a big-play type, must show improvement as a blocker.

DEFENSE The Cavaliers weren't very disruptive last year. Enter Jon Tenuta, a veteran coordinator known for bringing heat with aggressive, blitzing schemes. "We're not going to just stand still," coach Mike London says. "We're not just going to be a hood ornament, where you sit there and look nice."

That suits defensive end Eli Harold, a speed-rusher who made an impact as a true freshman last year and has star potential. Tackle Brent Urban came on late last year and should anchor the inside.

At linebacker, a Tenuta specialty, four-year fixture Steve Greer and high-motor LaRoy Reynolds will be missed. There's plenty of young talent, however, led by sophomore Kwontie Moore, who should push Henry Coley for the starting job in the middle.

Tenuta's pin-your-ears-back scheme can leave cornerbacks isolated. Fortunately, Virginia has a capable pair in juniors Demetrious Nicholson and DreQuan Hoskey. Safeties Anthony Harris and Brandon Phelps are also back, making the secondary the strength of the unit.

SPECIALISTS Virginia was last in the ACC in punt return average and kickoff coverage in 2012. Larry Lewis, a veteran special teams hand, was hired to shore things up. Punter Alex Vozenilek was solid a year ago, and Ian Frye replaces Drew Jarrett as the placekicker. True freshman Taquan Mizzell could add some juice to the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS A six-game losing streak and 4–8 finish sapped the momentum London had built over the previous two years. The overhaul of his staff smacked, if not of desperation, then clearly of a need for stronger direction and identity.

London has recruited well but has been criticized for his game management and lack of a consistent vision. His new hires have a combined 135 years of coaching experience. It feels a bit like a new start. Entering his fourth year, it's probably the last one London will get.

KEVIN PARKS

THE QUOTE

"A lot was made of Mike London's in-game management. That's the main reason they brought in Tom O'Brien."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	6	**Darius Jennings (Jr.)**	2	Dominique Terrell (Jr.)
WR	20	**Tim Smith (Sr.)**	19	E.J. Scott (Jr.)
LT	78	**Morgan Moses (Sr.)**	76	Michael Mooney (Fr.)
LG	74	**Conner Davis (Jr.)**	61	Cody Wallace (Jr.)
C	70	**Luke Bowanko (Sr.)**	67	Jackson Matteo (Fr.)
RG	65	Ross Burbank (So.)	62	Sean Karl (Fr.)
RT	79	**Sean Cascarano (Sr.)**	77	Jay Whitmire (So.)
TE	83	Jake McGee (Jr.)	49	Zach Swanson (Jr.)
QB	5	David Watford (So.)	14	Phillip Sims (Jr.)
FB	37	Billy Skrobacz (Sr.)	47	Vincent Croce (So.)
TB	25	Kevin Parks (Jr.)	10	Clifton Richardson (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	7	Eli Harold (So.)	43	Trent Corney (So.)
DT	64	David Dean (So.)	68	Andre Miles-Redmond (Fr.)
DT	99	**Brent Urban (Sr.)**	54	Justin Renfrow (Sr.)
DE	90	**Jake Snyder (Sr.)**	32	Michael Moore (So.)
OLB	59	Mark Hall (Fr.)	42	Demeitre Brim (So.)
MLB	44	**Henry Coley (Jr.)**	34	Kwontie Moore (So.)
OLB	13	Daquan Romero (Jr.)	29	D.J. Hill (Jr.)
CB	1	**Demetrious Nicholson (Jr.)**	30	C.J. Moore (Fr.)
CB	22	**DreQuan Hoskey (Jr.)**	26	Maurice Canady (So.)
SS	8	**Anthony Harris (Jr.)**	27	Rijo Walker (Sr.)
FS	21	**Brandon Phelps (Jr.)**	18	Anthony Cooper (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Ian Frye (So.)	KR	23	Khalek Shepherd (Jr.)
P	30	Alec Vozenilek (Jr.)	PR		Taquan Mizzell (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Phillip Sims, 203-114-1,263-4, 9 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Parks, 160 att., 734 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Darius Jennings, 48 rec., 568 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Anthony Harris, 87
Sacks: Jake Snyder, 2.5
Interceptions: Maurice Canady, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles

NATIONAL FORECAST **30**

ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **2**

Virginia Tech HOKIES

LOGAN THOMAS

Bruce Schwartzman

THE QUOTE

"They are really a good-looking football team. And they still recruit well. They just did not play very tough for whatever reason."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	18	D.J. Coles (Sr.)	5	Josh Stanford (Fr.)
WR	80	Demitri Knowles (So.)	19	Kevin Asante (So.)
LT	69	Mark Shuman (Jr.)	71	Jonathan McLaughlin (Fr.)
LG	76	**David Wang (Sr.)**	79	Caleb Farris (Jr.)
C	74	**Andrew Miller (Sr.)**	64	Matt Arkema (Jr.)
RG	55	Brent Benedict (Jr.)	72	Augie Conte (Fr.)
RT	63	Laurence Gibson (Jr.)	70	Jake Goins (So.)
TE	88	**Ryan Malleck (Jr.)**	33	Darius Redman (So.)
QB	3	**Logan Thomas (Sr.)**	6	Mark Leal (Jr.)
FB	32	Riley Beiro (Jr.)		Greg Gadell (Jr.)
RB	4	J.C. Coleman (So.)	14	Trey Edmunds (Fr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	99	**James Gayle (Sr.)**	66	Tyrel Wilson (Sr.)
DT	98	**Derrick Hopkins (Sr.)**	97	Kris Harley (So.)
DT	92	**Luther Maddy (Jr.)**	95	Nigel Williams (Fr.)
DE	42	**J.R. Collins (Sr.)**	96	Corey Marshall (Jr.)
OLB	24	Tariq Edwards (Sr.)	40	Deon Clarke (Fr.)
MLB	58	**Jack Tyler (Sr.)**	36	Chase Williams (Jr.)
OLB	37	Ronny Vandyke (So.)		Josh Trimble (So.)
CB	1	**Antone Exum (Sr.)**	2	Donovan Riley (So.)
CB	17	**Kyle Fuller (Sr.)**		Kendall Fuller (Fr.)
ROV	34	**Kyshoen Jarrett (Jr.)**	26	Desmond Frye (So.)
FS	8	**Detrick Bonner (Jr.)**	23	Der'Woun Greene (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	89	Cody Journell (Sr.)	KR 80	Demitri Knowles (So.)
P	27	A.J. Hughes (So.)	PR 34	Kyshoen Jarrett (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Logan Thomas, 429-220-2,976-16, 18 TDs

Rushing: Logan Thomas, 174 att., 524 yds., 9 TDs

Receiving: J.C. Coleman, 21 rec., 132 yds., 1 TD

Tackles: Jack Tyler, 119

Sacks: James Gayle, 5

Interceptions: Antone Exum, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE After a 7–6 record, Virginia Tech's worst in 20 years, coach Frank Beamer finally made radical changes on the offensive side of the ball, hiring Scot Loeffler as coordinator, Jeff Grimes as line coach and Aaron Moorehead as receivers coach. The goal was to inject new life into an offense whose production traditionally has lagged behind the defense.

Getting quarterback Logan Thomas back for his senior season helps. Although he struggled as a junior, throwing for 2,976 yards and 18 touchdowns but also 16 interceptions, Thomas remains the Hokies' best offensive weapon. Loeffler, who has worked with six future NFL quarterbacks as a coach — including Tom Brady as a graduate assistant at Michigan — was hard at work during the spring fixing Thomas' faulty mechanics.

The rest of the offense has question marks. The line, which struggled to open holes for the running game, has to replace two tackles, although senior center Andrew Miller returns to solidify the interior. J.C. Coleman led the running backs last year with 492 yards, hardly the featured back Tech enjoyed for years. Expect redshirt freshman Trey Edmunds, who has drawn some Kevin Jones comparisons, to vie for carries.

492

J.C. Coleman ran for 492 yards last year, the lowest rushing total for Virginia Tech's lead running back since Terry Smoot's 356 yards in 1967.

After losing its top three receivers from last year, Tech will lean heavily in the passing game on senior D.J. Coles, who is coming off a lost season because of a knee injury.

DEFENSE Bud Foster's crew appeared to turn a corner in the second half of last season, playing like the unit many expected at the start of the year. There should be some carryover, with the defense returning nine starters.

Two-time second-team All-ACC defensive end James Gayle and the tackle duo of Derrick Hopkins and Luther Maddy headline a deep defensive line that came into its own late in the year. The Hokies had 27 sacks in the final seven games, an average of 3.86 per game.

Jack Tyler, who had a team-high 119 tackles, returns at linebacker, joined by senior Tariq Edwards, an emerging player at the end of 2011 who missed significant time in 2012 with a knee/leg injury.

It's the secondary that has the biggest question mark. All-ACC cornerback Antone Exum tore an ACL playing pickup basketball in January, an injury that puts his return anywhere from the beginning of August to mid-October. With cornerback Kyle Fuller and safeties Detrick Bonner and Kyshoen Jarrett returning as starters, there's plenty of experience on the back end, but Tech will need to plan to be without Exum. Sophomores Donovan Riley and Donaldven Manning got the majority of spring reps in his place, although 5-star cornerback signee Kendall Fuller (Kyle's brother) could compete for playing time.

SPECIALISTS The Hokies have some talent here if they can avoid the gaffes that have plagued them in recent years. Kicker Cody Journell made 80 percent of his field goals last year, including three game-winners. Sophomore punter A.J. Hughes (40.6-yard average) brought some relief to Tech's long-standing punting problems. Demitri Knowles and Jarrett are threats in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Virginia Tech made changes to its staff in hopes that the shuffling gets the offense closer to the decades-long success of Foster's defense. The reality is that with completely new offensive tackles, a revamped receiving corps and question marks at running back, it might be more of the same until the new coaches can get a few recruiting classes under their belts.

Virginia Tech still has Thomas and a defense that returns nine starters from a group that finished 18th nationally last year. An ACC title isn't out of the question.

Head Coach: Frank Beamer
Record at School: 216-104-2 (26 years)
Career Record: 258-127-4 (32 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Scot Loeffler
Defensive Coordinator: Bud Foster
Blacksburg, VA
Lane Stadium (65,632)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (ACC)

August	
31	vs. Alabama #
September	
7	Western Carolina
14	at East Carolina
21	Marshall
26	at Georgia Tech
October	
5	North Carolina
12	Pittsburgh
26	Duke
November	
2	at Boston College
9	at Miami
16	Maryland
30	at Virginia

#Atlanta, GA

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Sept.	3	Georgia Tech	(ot)	W	20–17
Sept.	8	Austin Peay		W	42–7
Sept.	15	at Pittsburgh		L	17–35
Sept.	22	Bowling Green		W	37–0
Sept.	29	vs. Cincinnati %		L	24–27
Oct.	6	at North Carolina		L	34–48
Oct.	13	Duke		W	41–20
Oct.	20	at Clemson		L	17–38
Nov.	1	at Miami		L	12–30
Nov.	8	Florida State		L	22–28
Nov.	17	at Boston College	(ot)	W	30–23
Nov.	24	Virginia		W	17–14
Dec.	28	vs. Rutgers #	(ot)	W	13–10

%Landover #Russell Athletic Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kendall Fuller, CB, Baltimore, MD
2. Holland Fisher, S, Richmond, VA
3. Wyatt Teller, DE, Bealeton, VA
4. Bucky Hodges, QB, Virginia Beach, VA
5. Braxton Pfaff, OL, Lynchburg, VA
6. D.J. Reid, RB, Chester, VA
7. Brandon Facyson, CB, Newnan, GA
8. Charles Clark, DB, Suffolk, VA
9. Cequan Jefferson, CB, Richmond, VA
10. Carlis Parker, QB, Statesville, NC

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	25.1 ppg	8	81
Rushing	145.9 ypg	5	79
Passing	230.9 ypg	9	64
Total	376.8 ypg	9	81
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	22.9 ppg	2	32
Rushing	134.1 ypg	3	29
Passing	199.1 ypg	2	24
Total	333.2 ypg	2	18
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-5	-0.38	7	86

AMERICAN PREVIEW

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. LOUISVILLE **CARDINALS** 11-1, 7-1 AMERICAN
2. CINCINNATI **BEARCATS** 9-3, 6-2 AMERICAN
3. RUTGERS **SCARLET KNIGHTS** 7-5, 5-3 AMERICAN
4. UCF **KNIGHTS** 7-5, 5-3 AMERICAN
5. SOUTH FLORIDA **BULLS** 7-5, 5-3 AMERICAN
6. CONNECTICUT **HUSKIES** 5-7, 3-5 AMERICAN
7. HOUSTON **COUGARS** 5-7, 3-5 AMERICAN
8. SMU **MUSTANGS** 4-8, 3-5 AMERICAN
9. MEMPHIS **TIGERS** 4-8, 2-6 AMERICAN
10. TEMPLE **OWLS** 4-8, 1-7 AMERICAN

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Rutgers
2. Louisville
3. South Florida
4. Houston
5. Cincinnati
6. Connecticut
7. SMU
8. UCF
9. Memphis
10. Temple

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	3	6	7	1	4	1	2
CONNECTICUT	6	2	8	8	6	5	5
HOUSTON	7	1	2	5	10	10	7
LOUISVILLE	1	3	1	4	2	2	1
MEMPHIS	8	7	9	7	5	8	10
RUTGERS	4	5	4	2	1	4	3
SMU	5	8	5	9	9	7	4
SOUTH FLORIDA	9	10	6	6	3	6	9
TEMPLE	10	9	10	10	8	3	8
UCF	2	4	3	3	7	9	6

PRESEASON ALL-AAC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TEDDY BRIDGEWATER	6-3	218	Jr.	Louisville
RB	LYLE MCCOMBS	5-8	169	Jr.	Connecticut
RB	CHARLES SIMS	6-0	215	Sr.	Houston
WR	BRANDON COLEMAN	6-6	220	Jr.	Rutgers
WR	DEVANTE PARKER	6-3	205	Jr.	Louisville
TE	ALAN CROSS	6-1	235	So.	Memphis
C	AUSTIN REITER	6-3	273	Jr.	South Florida
G	AUSTEN BUJNOCH	6-5	285	Sr.	Cincinnati
G	ANTWAN LOWERY	6-4	305	Sr.	Rutgers
T	KALEB JOHNSON	6-4	300	Jr.	Rutgers
T	ERIC LEFELD	6-6	287	Jr.	Cincinnati

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	AARON LYNCH	6-6	244	So.	South Florida
DE	JAMIL MERRELL	6-4	255	Sr.	Rutgers
DT	BRANDON DUNN	6-3	285	Sr.	Louisville
DT	JORDAN STEPP	6-1	268	Sr.	Cincinnati
LB	GREG BLAIR	6-2	252	Sr.	Cincinnati
LB	PRESTON BROWN	6-2	255	Sr.	Louisville
LB	YAWIN SMALLWOOD	6-3	244	Jr.	Connecticut
CB	KENNETH ACKER	6-0	195	Sr.	SMU
CB	DEVEN DRANE	5-11	186	Sr.	Cincinnati
S	CALVIN PRYOR	6-2	213	Jr.	Louisville
S	HAKEEM SMITH	6-1	197	Sr.	Louisville

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	TONY MILIANO	6-2	186	Jr.	Cincinnati
P	RICHIE LEONE	6-3	215	Sr.	Houston
KR	RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY IV	5-7	161	Jr.	Cincinnati
PR	J.J. WORTON	6-2	209	Jr.	UCF

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BLAKE BORTLES	6-4	227	Jr.	UCF
RB	SAVON HUGGINS	6-0	200	Jr.	Rutgers
RB	STORM JOHNSON	6-1	217	Jr.	UCF
WR	DEONTAY GREENBERRY	6-3	198	So.	Houston
WR	BRESHAD PERRIMAN	6-2	209	So.	UCF
TE	SEAN PRICE	6-3	249	So.	South Florida
C	BETIM BUJARI	6-4	290	Jr.	Rutgers
G	JORDAN MCCRAY	6-4	309	Sr.	UCF
G	JAKE SMITH	6-4	314	Jr.	Louisville
T	ROWDY HARPER	6-6	295	Jr.	Houston
T	TORRIAN WILSON	6-4	308	Jr.	UCF

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	MARTIN IFEDI	6-3	260	Jr.	Memphis
DE	MARCUS SMITH	6-3	252	Sr.	Louisville
DT	DARIUS HAMILTON	6-4	260	So.	Rutgers
DT	SHAMAR STEPHEN	6-5	323	Sr.	Connecticut
LB	DEDE LATTIMORE	6-1	237	Sr.	South Florida
LB	TYLER MATAKEVICH	6-1	220	So.	Temple
LB	DERRICK MATHEWS	6-0	210	Jr.	Houston
CB	BYRON JONES	6-1	190	Jr.	Connecticut
CB	ZACH MCMILLIAN	5-10	178	Sr.	Houston
S	CLAYTON GEATHERS	6-3	202	Jr.	UCF
S	LORENZO WATERS	6-0	200	Jr.	Rutgers

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JOHN WALLACE	6-0	200	So.	Louisville
P	TOM HORNSEY	6-3	195	Sr.	Memphis
KR	JEREMY DEERING	6-2	210	Sr.	Rutgers
PR	KEIWONE MALONE	5-11	155	Jr.	Memphis

Danny Murphy

NATIONAL FORECAST 35
AMERICAN PREDICTION 2

Cincinnati BEARCATS

GREG BLAIR

Joe Robbins

THE QUOTE

"It's going to be a drastic change in the way program is run under (Tommy) Tuberville. They won't be quite as good as a year ago."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	6	**Anthony McClung (Sr.)**	19	Shaq Washington (So.)
WR	80	Alex Chisum (Jr.)	82	Max Morrison (So.)
WR	15	Chris Moore (So.)	84	Nate Cole (Fr.)
LT	71	**Eric Lefeld (Jr.)**	62	Cory Keebler (Jr.)
LG	76	**Austen Bujnoch (Sr.)**	79	Andre Cureton (Sr.)
C	63	**Dan Sprague (Sr.)**	59	Deyshawn Bond (Fr.)
RG	60	**Sam Longo (Sr.)**	75	Kevin Schloemer (Jr.)
RT	78	**Parker Ehinger (So.)**	74	Justin Murray (So.)
TE	86	Blake Annen (Sr.)	81	DJ Dowdy (Fr.)
QB	11	Brendon Kay (Sr.)	4	**Munchie Legaux (Sr.)**
RB	1	Ralph D. Abernathy IV (Jr.)	7	Tion Green (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	52	Elijah Shuler (Sr.)	96	Josh Posley (So.)
DT	46	Mitch Meador (Sr.)	91	Adam Dempsey (Sr.)
DT	94	**Jordan Stepp (Sr.)**	90	**Camaron Beard (Jr.)**
DE	92	Silverberry Mouhon (So.)	93	Brad Harrah (Jr.)
OLB	43	**Nick Temple (Jr.)**	57	Clemente Casseus (Jr.)
MLB	51	**Greg Blair (Sr.)**	44	Corey Mason (Jr.)
OLB	48	Jeff Luc (Jr.)	33	Solomon Tentman (Jr.)
CB	11	**Deven Drane (Sr.)**	18	Darren Doston (Jr.)
CB	2	Trenier Orr (So.)	12	Leviticus Payne (So.)
S	25	**Arryn Chenault (Sr.)**	29	Andre Jones (Fr.)
S	40	Kevin Brown (So.)	8	Adrian Witty (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Tony Miliano (Jr.)	KR	1 Ralph D. Abernathy IV (Jr.)
P	24	John Lloyd (Jr.)	PR	6 Anthony McClung (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Munchie Legaux, 230-120-1,716-9, 13 TDs
Rushing: Ralph Abernathy IV, 69 att., 366 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Anthony McClung, 34 rec., 539 yds, 2 TDs
Tackles: Greg Blair, 138
Sacks: Adrian Witty, 3
Interceptions: Arryn Chenault, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Brendon Kay was virtually unknown to University of Cincinnati football fans at this time last year. Today, Kay is the incumbent starter at quarterback. UC went 4–1 last year after Kay took over for Munchie Legaux, who was 6–2 as starter but was benched because of accuracy issues. Legaux (52.2 percent passing) and Kay (63.0 percent) both return for their final seasons, with Kay gaining a sixth year of eligibility via a medical hardship waiver.

UC must replace tailback George Winn, who rushed for 1,334 yards and 13 touchdowns in his senior year. Returnees Ralph David Abernathy IV and Tion Green and junior college transfers Rodriguez Moore and Hosey Williams will all get looks, with new coach Tommy Tuberville waiting to see who steps up.

The best news is that all five offensive line starters return, led by first-team All-Big East selections Eric Lefeld (left tackle) and Austen Bujnoch (left guard).

At receiver, Anthony McClung (34 catches, 539 yards, two TDs) is the top returnee. The passing game lacked flair in 2012, ranking 54th nationally. The top target was tight end Travis Kelce, who had 45 catches in his final season. Tuberville coached the nation's No. 2 passing offense last year at Texas Tech, but he prefers a 50-50 balance of run/pass.

9.5

Cincinnati has averaged 9.5 wins over the past six seasons, and that includes a 4–8 record in 2010.

DEFENSE The Bearcats rather quietly posted the program's best defensive scoring average since 1995. UC allowed 18.5 points per game, which ranked No. 14 nationally.

The Bearcats return six defensive starters and several others part-time starters. Middle linebacker Greg Blair was first team All-Big East and averaged 10.6 tackles per game. Outside linebacker Nick Temple and tackle Jordan Stepp are among other productive returnees.

Keep an eye on Florida State transfer Jeff Luc, rated as the nation's No. 1 inside linebacker out of high school. Luc will play outside linebacker. He is a high-energy player.

Senior defensive backs Deven Drane and Arryn Chenault will anchor the secondary. Drane is the son of former Buffalo Bills safety Dwight Drane. Chenault is the nephew of Paul Hogue, who helped lead UC to consecutive NCAA basketball championships in 1961 and '62.

UC will use a 4-3 front, which also was its base defense last year. Tuberville says UC will play a gap control defense, with speed favored over size, especially on the edges.

SPECIALISTS The Bearcats' special teams took a hit when punter Pat O'Donnell opted to transfer to Miami (Fla.) for his final season of eligibility. Tony Miliano, who hit 17-of-22 field goals in 2012, enters his third year as the placekicker. Abernathy has a strong 25.8-yard career average as kickoff returner, highlighted by a 90-yard return for a TD against Vanderbilt in the 2011 Liberty Bowl.

FINAL ANALYSIS The 58-year-old Tuberville seems energized by his move to Cincinnati. Tuberville went 20–17 at Texas Tech and was never truly embraced by the fans, but Cincinnati boosters are thrilled to have him. UC never has had a coach with anything resembling Tuberville's national pedigree, which includes an 85–40 record at Auburn from 1999-2008.

There is a solid core of returnees, but the unknown is how much impact to expect from several transfers. Moore (all-purpose back) and Luc (linebacker), at one point or another, were rated No. 1 nationally at their positions by various recruiting services.

The Bearcats had 10-win seasons in both 2011 and 2012 under Butch Jones, who parlayed his success into the Tennessee job. With a relatively kind schedule, Cincinnati fans could see another season of double-digit wins.

Head Coach: Tommy Tuberville
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 130-77 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eddie Gran
Defensive Coordinator: Art Kaufman
Cincinnati, OH
Nippert Stadium (35,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-2 (AMERICAN)

August	
31	Purdue
September	
7	at Illinois
14	Northwestern State
21	at Miami (Ohio)
October	
5	at South Florida
11	Temple
19	Connecticut
30	at Memphis
November	
9	SMU
16	at Rutgers
23	at Houston
December	
5	Louisville

2012 RESULTS (10-3, 5-2)

Sept.	6	Pittsburgh		W	34–10
Sept.	15	Delaware State		W	23–7
Sept.	29	vs. Virginia Tech %		W	27–24
Oct.	6	Miami (OH)		W	52–14
Oct.	13	Fordham		W	49–17
Oct.	20	at Toledo		L	23–29
Oct.	26	at Louisville	(ot)	L	31–34
Nov.	3	Syracuse		W	35–24
Nov.	10	at Temple		W	34–10
Nov.	17	Rutgers		L	3–10
Nov.	23	South Florida		W	27–10
Dec.	1	at Connecticut		W	34–17
Dec.	27	vs. Duke #		W	48–34

%Landover #Belk Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Travis Johnson, TE, Tampa, FL
2. Jerrell Jordan, DL, Alta Vista, VA*
3. Mike Tyson, DB, Norfolk, VA
4. Rodriguez Moore, RB, Bastrop, LA*
5. Terrell Hartsfield, DL, Wake Forest, NC*
6. Johnny Holton, WR, Miami, FL*
7. Chris Burton, TE, Danville, VA
8. Korey Cunningham, DE, Montevallo, AL
9. Rasheen Jones, LB, Cincinnati, OH
10. Hosey Williams, RB, Miami, FL*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	32.3 ppg	1	39
Rushing	201.5 ypg	1	30
Passing	238.8 ypg	4	54
Total	440.2 ypg	2	36
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	18.5 ppg	2	14
Rushing	135.6 ypg	3	30
Passing	252.5 ypg	8	89
Total	388.1 ypg	6	54
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
+9	+0.69	4	23

Connecticut HUSKIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **83**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Paul Pasqualoni
Record at School: 10-14 (2 years)
Career Record: 151-90-1 (21 years)
Offensive Coordinator: T.J. Weist
Defensive Coordinator: Hank Hughes
Storrs, CT
Rentschler Field (40,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 3-5 (AMERICAN)

August	
29	Towson
September	
14	Maryland
21	Michigan
28	at Buffalo
October	
12	South Florida
19	at Cincinnati
26	at UCF
November	
8	Louisville
16	at SMU
23	at Temple
30	Rutgers
December	
7	Memphis

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 2-5)

Aug. 30	Massachusetts		W	37–0
Sept. 8	NC State		L	7–10
Sept. 15	at Maryland		W	24–21
Sept. 22	at Western Michigan		L	24–30
Sept. 29	Buffalo		W	24–17
Oct. 6	at Rutgers		L	3–19
Oct. 13	Temple	(ot)	L	14–17
Oct. 19	at Syracuse		L	10–40
Nov. 3	at USF		L	6–13
Nov. 9	Pittsburgh		W	24–17
Nov. 24	at Louisville	(ot)	W	23–20
Dec. 1	Cincinnati		L	17–34

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tim Boyle, QB, Middlefield, CT
2. Brian Lemelle, WR, Harrisburg, PA
3. Jalen Stevens, DE, Goose Creek, SC
4. Kyle Schafenacker, G, Cooper City, FL
5. Junior Joseph, LB, Sinking Springs, PA
6. Matt Walsh, FB, Madison, CT
7. Chasz Wright, T, Woodbridge, VA
8. Noel Thomas, WR, Norwalk, CT
9. Cory Jasudowich, LB, North Branford, CT
10. Thomas Myers, TE, Coventry, CT

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	17.8 ppg	8	118
Rushing	87.9 ypg	8	117
Passing	230.4 ypg	5	65
Total	318.3 ypg	8	110
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	19.8 ppg	3	19
Rushing	97.9 ypg	2	7
Passing	212.0 ypg	3	36
Total	309.9 ypg	1	9
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
-14	-1.17	7	110

OFFENSE The Huskies made it through spring ball knowing that Chandler Whitmer would be the starting quarterback in 2013. That brought a feeling of stability and continuity that did not exist in Paul Pasqualoni's first two seasons as UConn's coach. Whitmer started all 12 games last season after arriving from Butler (Kan.) Community College. He showed steady improvement and finished the season with 2,664 passing yards and nine touchdowns, but also threw 16 interceptions. Redshirt freshman Casey Cochran, injured last year, had a strong spring and should push Whitmer.

Junior tailback Lyle McCombs enters the season as UConn's eighth all-time leading rusher with 2,011 career yards. The coaching staff hopes McCombs returns to his 2011 form when he gained 1,151 yards, had seven touchdowns, and was named a Freshman All-American. Sophomore Joseph Williams (5'11", 202) is bigger than McCombs (5'8", 169) and might be ready for more touches.

Geremy Davis and Shakim Phillips, UConn's top two receivers in number of catches, return. Both established a good working rapport with Whitmer in 2012. Junior Deshon Foxx could provide some excitement at the slot position.

UConn ranked 110th in the nation in total offense last season, and much of the blame fell on an inexperienced offensive line that yielded 33 sacks. Guard Steve Greene has made 25 career starts but the Huskies need senior tackle Jimmy Bennett to be healthy and consistent.

24
UConn scored 24 touchdowns in 2012. Only two teams, Idaho and UMass, scored fewer.

DEFENSE Connecticut ranked No. 9 in the nation in total defense in 2012, allowing opponents only 309.9 yards per game. Six starters must be replaced, and the dropoff will be felt most at linebacker (Sio Moore, Jory Johnson) and cornerback (Blidi Wreh-Wilson, Dwayne Gratz). End Trevardo Williams, who had 11.5 sacks, and tackle Ryan Wirth are also gone.

Middle linebacker Yawin Smallwood, who led the Huskies with 120 tackles last season, will anchor the defense. Senior end Jesse Joseph, who tore his Achilles tendon last September, was granted a medical redshirt and will have high expectations. Senior tackle Shamar Stephen started nine games last season and had seven tackles against Cincinnati. Two transfers bring experience to the linebacking corps — Ryan Donohue (Maryland) and Graham Stewart (Florida).

There is experience in the secondary, where junior Byron Jones has been moved from safety to corner. Safety Ty-Meer Brown has 24 starts under his belt.

Assistant coach Hank Hughes steps back into the role of defensive coordinator after Don Brown left for Boston College.

SPECIALISTS Chad Christen replaced UConn's all-time leading placekicker Dave Teggart last season, making 14-of-21 field goals — including his last seven — and converting all 22 extra point attempts. Christen missed spring ball after surgery to repair a tear in the hip/quadrant area, giving backup Bobby Puyol extra work. Punter Cole Wagner is in his third season. Taylor Mack is first in line to replace explosive Nick Williams on kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a critical season for Pasqualoni and his staff. The Huskies have recorded consecutive 5–7 seasons since Randy Edsall took the Huskies to the Fiesta Bowl in 2010. UConn fans are hoping for some new wrinkles from offensive coordinator T.J. Weist in his first season in charge of what has been a predictable and conservative attack. The schedule is challenging, with home games against Michigan, Maryland, Rutgers, South Florida and Louisville. The Huskies probably need to win three of those five to entertain thoughts of a postseason game.

YAWIN SMALLWOOD

THE QUOTE

"They had a better defense than some power programs. They can't be as talented on defense. There will be a significant dropoff."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**85**	**Geremy Davis (Jr.)**	4	Deshon Foxx (Jr.)
WR	8	Shakim Phillips (Jr.)	9	Kamal Abrams (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Jimmy Bennett (Sr.)**	75	Xavier Hemingway (So.)
LG	**69**	**Steve Greene (Sr.)**	60	Tyler Samra (So.)
C	**50**	**Tyler Bullock (Sr.)**	73	Alex Mateas (Jr.)
RG	65	Gus Cruz (Jr.)	71	Richard Levy (Fr.)
RT	**77**	**Kevin Friend (Sr.)**	78	Dalton Gifford (So.)
TE	94	Mark Hansson (Jr.)	49	Sean McQuillan (So.)
QB	**10**	**Chandler Whitmer (Jr.)**	12	Casey Cochran (Fr.)
FB	44	Max DeLorenzo (So.)	34	Jazzmar Clax (Fr.)
TB	**43**	**Lyle McCombs (Jr.)**	21	Joseph Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	91	Jesse Joseph (Sr.)	97	B.J. McBryde (Jr.)
DT	**59**	**Shamar Stephen (Sr.)**	92	Mykal Myers (Fr.)
DT	90	Julian Campenni (So.)	**56**	**Angelo Pruitt (Jr.)**
DE	51	Tim Willman (Sr.)	47	Reuben Frank (Jr.)
OLB	32	Jefferson Ashiru (So.)	2	Graham Stewart (So.)
MLB	**33**	**Yawin Smallwood (Jr.)**	46	Marquise Vann (So.)
OLB	52	Ryan Donohue (Sr.)	41	Brandon Steg (Jr.)
CB	**16**	**Byron Jones (Jr.)**	3	David Stevenson (So.)
CB	29	Taylor Mack (Sr.)	6	Jhavon Williams (Fr.)
S	22	Andrew Adams (So.)	20	Obi Melifonwu (Fr.)
S	**15**	**Ty-Meer Brown (Jr.)**	23	Wilbert Lee (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Chad Christen (Sr.)	**KR**	29	Taylor Mack (Sr.)
P	86	Cole Wagner (Sr.)	**PR**	29	Taylor Mack (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chandler Whitmer, 361-208-2,664-16, 9 TDs
Rushing: Lyle McCombs, 243 att., 860 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Geremy Davis, 44 rec., 613 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Yawin Smallwood, 120
Sacks: Yawin Smallwood, 4
Interceptions: Ty-Meer Brown, 1; Byron Jones, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brian Ebner

NATIONAL FORECAST **92**

AMERICAN PREDICTION **7**

Houston COUGARS

CHARLES SIMS

THE QUOTE

"They have skill all over the place, speed all over the place. Their issues aren't talent. I wonder if the issues are internal."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**3**	**Deontay Greenberry (So.)**		Markeith Ambles (Jr.)
WR	81	Larry McDuffey (So.)	14	Aaron Johnson (Jr.)
WR	**26**	**Daniel Spencer (Jr.)**	86	Casey Martin (So.)
WR	9	Dewayne Peace (Sr.)	88	Xavier Maxwell (Sr.)
LT	**74**	**Rowdy Harper (Jr.)**		Damien Parris (Jr.)
LG	**64**	**Ty Cloud (Sr.)**	79	DeAnthony Sims (Sr.)
C	**58**	**Bryce Redman (Jr.)**	66	Austin Lunsford (Jr.)
RG	63	Kent Forsch (Sr.)	72	Emeka Okafor (So.)
RT	**69**	**Ralph Oragwu (Sr.)**	71	Zach Johnson (So.)
QB	**8**	**David Piland (Jr.)**	16	Bram Kohlhausen (So.)
RB	**5**	**Charles Sims (Sr.)**	35	Kenneth Farrow (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	97	Eric Braswell (Jr.)	94	Cameron Malveaux (Fr.)
DT	**92**	**Joey Mbu (Jr.)**	96	Jeremiah Farley (Jr.)
DT	95	Tomme Mark (So.)	93	B.J. Singleton (Fr.)
DE	21	Eric Eiland (So.)	46	Trevor Harris (Jr.)
SLB	41	Steven Taylor (Fr.)	43	Austin Wilson (Sr.)
MLB	**49**	**Derrick Mathews (Jr.)**	45	Elandon Roberts (So.)
WLB	4	Trevon Randle (So.)	38	George Bamfo (Sr.)
CB	**10**	**Zach McMillian (Sr.)**	5	Turon Walker (Jr.)
CB	13	Thomas Bates (Sr.)	26	Brandon Wilson (Fr.)
SS	16	Adrian McDonald (So.)	14	Jarrett Irving (Fr.)
FS	**23**	**Trevon Stewart (So.)**	39	Steven Aikens (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Richie Leone (Sr.)	**KR**	22	Ryan Jackson (So.)
P	15	Richie Leone (Sr.)	**PR**	81	Larry McDuffey (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Piland, 448-256-2,944-12, 16 TDs

Rushing: Charles Sims, 142 att., 851 yds., 11 TDs

Receiving: Dewayne Peace, 54 rec., 603 yds., 2 TDs

Tackles: Trevon Stewart, 126; Derrick Mathews, 126

Sacks: Derrick Mathews, 6

Interceptions: Zach McMillian, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE You can't pin last year's 5–7 mark on the offense. Houston averaged a robust 32.4 points and 479.6 yards per game in 2012 and returns the vast majority of the players who produced those numbers. Still, head coach Tony Levine is expecting new co-coordinator Doug Meacham to show more "creativity" with the attack, even if the scheme doesn't change too much.

Junior David Piland is back at quarterback after throwing for 2,944 yards last year. But he must become more accurate (57.1 percent) and cut back on the 12 interceptions he threw in 2012. He has 12 of UH's top targets back, but there are no proven gamebreakers among them. Senior Dewayne Peace (54 catches), sophomore Deontay Greenberry (47) and junior Daniel Spencer (41) lead the way. Look out for junior college newcomer Markeith Ambles, a former USC top recruit who averaged 17.2 yards per reception at Arizona Western College.

The 2012 ground game was productive, and senior Charles Sims returns after gaining 851 yards and scoring 14 total touchdowns in just nine games. The key to that part of the attack is an offensive line that returns four starters and will be fortified by the arrival of junior college tackle Damien Parris. Junior tackle Rowdy Harper and senior guard Ty Cloud comprise a strong, experienced left side of the line.

49.3

Houston attempted 49.3 passes per game last season. Only two teams averaged more — Washington State (52.0) and Marshall (50.6).

DEFENSE The Cougars need to get much better on this side of the ball, and Levine is betting new coordinator David Gibbs can simplify the scheme and make UH more productive than it was last year, when opponents averaged 36.0 points and 483.0 yards per game.

The heart of the D will be junior Derrick Mathews, who moves from the weak-side linebacking spot to the middle, even though he weighs only 207 pounds. Mathews had 17 tackles for a loss among his 126 stops last year and has star potential. With two starting linebackers gone, the Cougars need some people to step up. Expect senior Austin Wilson and LSU transfer Trevon Randle to see plenty of time.

Houston will stay with a four-man front under Gibbs. Though the starters aren't household names, Levine believes their quickness will make a difference. Junior Joey Mbu and sophomore Tomme Mark are the top tackles, with sophomore Eric Eiland and junior Eric Braswell on the outside.

There is some talent in the secondary, beginning with sophomore safety Trevon Stewart, whose 126 tackles tied Mathews for second-most on the team. Senior corners Thomas Bates and Zach McMillian (five interceptions) are solid. Expect junior college newcomer Turon Walker to provide depth on the outside, while fellow junior college import Kent London is a big safety prospect.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Matt Hogan is gone, but senior Richie Leone averaged 45.5 yards per punt, boomed 25 kickoffs into the end zone and has a big leg that could earn him the kicking job. If not, touted true freshman Ty Cummings could take it. There is experience in the return game, but the Cougars need a boost in production.

FINAL ANALYSIS There are many reasons for optimism around the Cougar program. Houston moves into the American Athletic Conference, where as Levine says, "the winner goes to a BCS bowl." The school is building an on-campus, 45,000-seat stadium that will open in 2014, and the last two recruiting classes have brought in plenty of talent.

But if the Cougars want to compete in the American — or anywhere else, for that matter — they must tighten up the defense. Houston should be able to score plenty of points, thanks to its surfeit of skill performers, although Piland needs to be more accurate. The Cougars' ultimate success depends on whether or not they can stop people.

Head Coach: Tony Levine
Record at School: 6-7 (Second Full Season)
Career Record: 6-7 (Second Full Season)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Travis Bush, Doug Meacham
Defensive Coordinator: David Gibbs
Houston, TX
Reliant Stadium (71,054)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 5-7, 3-5 (AMERICAN)

August	
30	Southern
September	
7	at Temple
21	at Rice
28	at UTSA
October	
12	Memphis
19	BYU
26	at Rutgers
31	South Florida
November	
9	at UCF
16	at Louisville
23	Cincinnati
29	SMU

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 4-4)

Sept.	1	Texas State	L	13–30
Sept.	8	Louisiana Tech	L	49–56
Sept.	15	at UCLA	L	6–37
Sept.	29	vs. Rice %	W	35–14
Oct.	6	North Texas	W	44–21
Oct.	13	UAB	W	39–17
Oct.	18	at SMU	L	42–72
Oct.	27	UTEP	W	45–35
Nov.	3	at East Carolina	L	28–48
Nov.	10	Tulsa	L	7–41
Nov.	17	at Marshall	L	41–44
Nov.	24	Tulane	W	40–17

%Reliant Stadium

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Donald Gage III, WR, Zachary, LA
2. Joseph Glenn, RB, Giddings, TX
3. Markeith Ambles, WR, McDonough, GA*
4. Deondre Skinner, TE, Patterson, LA
5. Billy Cosh, QB, Annapolis, MD*
6. John O'Korn, QB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
7. Turon Walker, CB, Stockton, CA*
8. DeMarcus Ayers, ATH, Lancaster, TX
9. Greg Ward, QB, Tyler, TX
10. Ty Cummings, K, Southlake, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	32.4 ppg	4	38
Rushing	151.2 ypg	7	70
Passing	328.4 ypg	2	11
Total	479.6 ypg	2	15
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	36.0 ppg	8	107
Rushing	192.8 ypg	8	92
Passing	290.3 ypg	12	115
Total	483.0 ypg	12	115
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-4	-0.33	8	82

CSM/AP Images

Louisville CARDINALS

NATIONAL FORECAST 10
AMERICAN PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Charlie Strong
Record at School: 25-14 (3 years)
Career Record: 25-15 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Shawn Watson
Defensive Coordinator: Vance Bedford
Louisville, KY
Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (55,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 11-1, 7-1 (AMERICAN)

August	
31	Ohio
September	
7	Eastern Kentucky
14	at Kentucky
21	FIU
October	
5	at Temple
10	Rutgers
18	UCF
26	at South Florida
November	
8	at Connecticut
16	Houston
23	Memphis
December	
5	at Cincinnati

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 5-2)

Sept.	2	Kentucky	W	32–14
Sept.	8	Missouri State	W	35–7
Sept.	15	North Carolina	W	39–34
Sept.	22	at FIU	W	28–21
Sept.	29	at Southern Miss	W	21–17
Oct.	13	at Pittsburgh	W	45–35
Oct.	20	South Florida	W	27–25
Oct.	26	Cincinnati	(ot) W	34–31
Nov.	3	Temple	W	45–17
Nov.	10	at Syracuse	L	26–45
Nov.	24	Connecticut	(ot) L	20–23
Nov.	29	at Rutgers	W	20–17
Jan.	2	vs. Florida #	W	33–23

#Sugar Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. James Quick, WR, Louisville, KY
2. Finesse Middleton, DE, Gadsen, AL
3. Kyle Bolin, QB, Lexington, KY
4. De'Asian Richardson, DT, Jacksonville, FL
5. Keith Kelsey, LB, Gainesville, FL
6. Keith Towbridge, TE, Toledo, OH
7. Stacy Thomas, LB, Miami, FL
8. Richard Benjamin, DB, Tampa, FL
9. Charles Williams, CB, Hialeah, FL
10. Kyle Shortridge, DT, Loxahatchee, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	31.2 ppg	2	50
Rushing	122.7 ypg	6	102
Passing	296.1 ypg	1	24
Total	418.8 ypg	3	52
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	23.8 ppg	5	36
Rushing	148.0 ypg	6	48
Passing	192.3 ypg	1	16
Total	340.3 ypg	4	23
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
+11	+0.85	2	17

OFFENSE Charlie Strong ended spring practice by saying that he would not trade Teddy Bridgewater for Johnny Manziel — and nobody laughed. A creative playmaker, Bridgewater ignored a broken wrist to direct Louisville to a dominant 33–23 Sugar Bowl win over Florida. It's difficult to imagine that Bridgewater could improve his 27 touchdown passes and 69.0 completion percentage season, but Strong says that Bridgewater knows the schemes as well as his assistants. Louisville's only fear is another injury to Bridgewater, because the backups lack any game experience.

But that's the only place Strong's team lacks sizzle. Halfback Dominique Brown returned from a knee injury for the Spring Game to run like the power back Strong covets. He'll share time with Senorise Perry, who is also returning from knee surgery. Bridgewater throws to an elite group of receivers. Junior DeVante Parker is NFL-ready, averaging nearly 19 yards per catch. Eli Rogers has been Bridgewater's security blanket since high school. Speedster Damian Copeland led the team in receptions.

Strong's only challenge is replacing two three-year starters on the offensive line. Coaches experimented with guard Jake Smith at the center spot during spring practice, a move Bridgewater endorsed, but Smith remains at guard for now. Tackle Abraham "Taco" Garcia played as a true freshman and has star potential.

8.9
Teddy Bridgewater averaged 8.9 yards per attempt last season, fourth-best in the nation among QBs with at least 400 attempts.

DEFENSE Strong made his name as a defensive coordinator, and he bristled last season over grumbling about the defense. But there were reasons for the unease. Louisville did not rank in the top half of the Big East in rushing or scoring defense, and the Cardinals did not play to their potential until the Sugar Bowl, when they recorded a pair of interceptions and three sacks against the Gators.

Only one full-time starter, cornerback Adrian Bushell, must be replaced from that group, so expectations will be extremely high.

Defensive tackles Brandon Dunn and Jamaine Brooks are confirmed run-stuffers. They demand double teams that create lanes for Deiontrez Mount to pursue the quarterback. Linebacker Preston Brown remains a foundational piece of the defense that Strong started building in 2010, and sophomores James Burgess and Keith Brown have star potential. George Durant fended off a challenge from the youngsters and held on to his outside linebacker spot. Terrell Floyd mans a cornerback spot, where he will benefit from the support of a pair of ferocious hitters — safeties Hakeem Smith and Calvin Pryor.

SPECIALISTS This is another area where Louisville needs improvement. The Cards failed to rank in the top 100 in either punt or kickoff returns. Perhaps freshman James Quick, who turned down offers from Ohio State, Tennessee and Oregon to stay home, can change that, because he excelled returning punts in high school and is a sprint champion. Placekicker John Wallace was 14-of-14 inside 40 yards. Ryan Johnson, the punter, is dependable, but not spectacular.

FINAL ANALYSIS With 14 returning starters, a likely first-round draft pick at quarterback and memories of thumping Florida in New Orleans, anything less than a 12–0 season would be considered a disappointment by many Louisville fans. Strong's team is loaded with speed, toughness and experience on both sides of the ball.

Another reason for raging expectations: the schedule. Louisville likely will not play a top-25 team during the regular season now that Boise State has snubbed the crumbling Big East — known now as the American Athletic Conference. Syracuse, one of two teams to beat Louisville in 2012, is gone to the ACC. That leaves a rivalry game at Kentucky and a season-ending visit to Cincinnati as the major obstacles.

TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

THE QUOTE

"Teddy Bridgewater is arguably the best quarterback in the country. He's in the conversation."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	9	DeVante Parker (Jr.)	86	Matt Milton (Jr.)
WR	4	Robert Clark (Jr.)	82	Eli Rogers (Jr.)
WR	7	**Damian Copeland (Sr.)**		James Quick (Fr.)
LT	77	Abraham Garcia (So.)	74	Ryan Mack (So.)
LG	70	**John Miller (Jr.)**	63	Josh Stearns (So.)
C	68	Kamran Joyer (Sr.)	62	T.C. Klusman (Fr.)
RG	53	**Jake Smith (Jr.)**	71	Chris Acosta (Jr.)
RT	79	**Jamon Brown (Jr.)**	74	Ryan Mack (So.)
TE	18	Gerald Christian (Jr.)	83	Ryan Hubbell (Sr.)
QB	5	**Teddy Bridgewater (Jr.)**	11	Will Gardner (Fr.)
RB	10	Dominique Brown (Jr.)	32	Senorise Perry (Sr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	91	**Marcus Smith (Sr.)**	25	Finesse Middleton (Fr.)
DT	92	**Brandon Dunn (Sr.)**	93	**Roy Philon (Sr.)**
DT	99	**Jamaine Brooks (Jr.)**	97	DeAngelo Brown (So.)
DE	48	Deiontrez Mount (Jr.)	94	Lorenzo Mauldin (Jr.)
OLB	34	**George Durant (Sr.)**	31	Champ Lee (Sr.)
MLB	2	**Preston Brown (Sr.)**	1	Keith Brown (So.)
OLB	13	James Burgess (So.)	1	Keith Brown (So.)
CB	19	**Terrell Floyd (Jr.)**	12	Stephan Robinson (Jr.)
CB	15	Andrew Johnson (Jr.)	3	Charles Gaines (So.)
SS	29	**Hakeem Smith (Sr.)**	27	Jermaine Reve (So.)
FS	25	**Calvin Pryor (Jr.)**	8	Gerod Holliman (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	John Wallace (So.)	KR	20	Corvin Lamb (So.)
P	8	Ryan Johnson (Jr.)	PR		James Quick (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Teddy Bridgewater, 419-287-3,718-8, 27 TDs
Rushing: Senorise Perry, 136 att., 705 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Damian Copeland, 50 rec., 628 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Preston Brown, 109
Sacks: Lorenzo Mauldin, 4.5
Interceptions: Terrell Floyd, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Danny Murphy

NATIONAL FORECAST **96**

AMERICAN PREDICTION **9**

Memphis TIGERS

CHARLES HARRIS

Stephen Lance Dennee/Icon SMI

THE QUOTE

"Erratic team. They've been very junior college and transfer heavy in recent years, and they've never really been consistent as a result."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	7	Keiwone Malone (Jr.)	5	Mose Frazier (So.)
WR	87	Tevin Jones (So.)		Sam Craft
WR	2	Joe Craig (Jr.)	6	Jamere Valentine (Sr.)
LT	77	Taylor Fallin (So.)	61	Markeith Minnick (Fr.)
LG	**56**	**Chris Schuetz (Sr.)**	67	Sam Thomas (Fr.)
C	**72**	**Antonio Foster (Sr.)**	75	Michael Stannard (So.)
RG	70	Micah Simmons (So.)	78	Kevin McIntyre (Jr.)
RT	**54**	**Al Bond (Jr.)**	65	Christopher Roberson (Fr.)
TE	**40**	**Alan Cross (So.)**	89	Jesse Milleson (Sr.)
QB	**9**	**Jacob Karam (Sr.)**	12	Paxton Lynch (Fr.)
RB	**38**	**Brandon Hayes (Sr.)**	32	Jai Steib (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**94**	**Corey Jones (Sr.)**	92	Melvin Jones (Jr.)
NT	**56**	**Terry Redden (Jr.)**	59	Johnnie Farms (Sr.)
DT	99	Kendrick Golden (Jr.)	95	Kewan Alfred (Jr.)
DE	**97**	**Martin Ifedi (Jr.)**	91	Ricky Hunter (So.)
LB	**45**	**Anthony Brown (Sr.)**	13	Tank Jakes (Jr.)
LB	**49**	**Charles Harris (Jr.)**	53	Leonard Pegues (So.)
LB	44	Ryan Coleman (Jr.)	**16**	**Wynton McManis (So.)**
CB	37	Bakari Hollier (Jr.)	28	Andrew Gaines (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Bobby McCain (Jr.)**	17	Chris Morley (Fr.)
SS	39	Reggis Ball (So.)	19	Anthony Watson (Sr.)
FS	**4**	**Lonnie Ballentine (Sr.)**	10	Tavon Bolden (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jake Elliott (Fr.)	KR	21	Bobby McCain (Jr.)
P	43	Tom Hornsey (Sr.)	PR	7	Keiwone Malone (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jacob Karam, 274-176-1,895-3, 14 TDs

Rushing: Brandon Hayes, 118 att., 576 yds., 6 TDs

Receiving: Keiwone Malone, 44 rec., 476 yds., 3 TDs

Tackles: Charles Harris, 79

Sacks: Martin Ifedi, 7.5

Interceptions: Lonnie Ballentine, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Second-year coach Justin Fuente enters his first season in the American Athletic Conference, formerly known as the Big East, with a better offense. Fuente returns starting quarterback Jacob Karam, the Texas Tech transfer who ended the season by leading the struggling program to three straight wins. Karam, now a senior, completed 40-of-52 passes for seven touchdowns with only one interception during the streak. As good as Karam was, 6'6" redshirt freshman Paxton Lynch, a Florida native with a strong arm, could be better. He had a solid spring, as did Eric Mathews, a dual-threat QB who served as Karam's backup last fall and has improved substantially as a thrower.

At running back, Fuente returns starter Brandon Hayes and reserve Jai Steib, who put together respectable seasons and helped the Tigers nearly double their rushing average from the previous year. Hayes, a walk-on, had back-to-back 100-yard games to end the year. Hayes and Steib will have to hold off challenges from Marquis Warford, Doroland Dorceus, Robert Davis and Tearris Wallace, four running backs from the 2013 recruiting class. Warford rushed for 2,322 yards and averaged 11.9 yards per carry in high school last fall.

0-11

Memphis' record versus ranked opponents is 0–11 since beating No. 6 Tennessee in 1996.

The receiving corps got a boost from the addition of former Clemson wideout Joe Craig, who gives the Tigers the speed they lacked at the position a year ago. Craig joins a group that includes highly regarded local prospect Sam Craft, who might also play basketball at Memphis, along with returnees Keiwone Malone, Tevin Jones and Reggie Travis. Tight end Alan Cross, also a walk-on, was a dependable target for Karam.

Although the offensive line lost all-conference tackle Jordan Devey, three others return to give the unit a foundation on which to operate during its first season in a new league. Taylor Fallin (6'6", 330) is expected to move into Devey's left tackle slot.

DEFENSE Former Missouri assistant Barry Odom led a remarkable turnaround as defensive coordinator. He transformed what was one of the worst units in the FBS into a respectable group. In its eight conference games, the U of M ranked first in its former league — Conference USA — in total defense. Odom returns several key players, including former high school teammates Terry Redden and Charles Harris, and end Martin Ifedi, who had 7.5 sacks last year.

Joining Redden up front will be Johnnie Farms, who has the ability to play at the next level. Farms, a 6'2", 300-pound senior, is a prototypical run-stopper. Two linebackers who emerged as playmakers last season — Anthony Brown and Tank Jakes — are back.

In the secondary, which lost two starters, cornerback Bobby McCain and safety Lonnie Ballentine return. McCain, a junior, is the vocal leader of the group, and Ballentine, a 6'3" senior, is likely to draw interest from pro scouts.

The defense should get a significant boost from junior college transfers Ryan Coleman (linebacker) and Kewan Alfred (defensive tackle).

SPECIALISTS Punter Tom Hornsey, beginning his third season with the Tigers, should establish himself as one of the new league's best. Memphis, however, will have to find a new placekicker. In an effort to address the shortcoming, the Tigers added two kickers in their last signing class. The punt return unit should be capable with Malone and Craig.

FINAL ANALYSIS Fuente made significant strides in his first season, and this year's team should show similar improvement. A big key will be continuity: Fuente was able to retain each member of his coaching staff even though several received job offers from bigger programs. Still, the Tigers will be playing in a more difficult league and may not be able to better last year's record of 4–8 despite an upgrade in talent.

Head Coach: Justin Fuente
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 4-8 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Dickey
Defensive Coordinator: Barry Odom
Memphis, TN
Liberty Bowl (61,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (AMERICAN)

September	
7	Duke
14	at Middle Tennessee
21	Arkansas State
October	
5	UCF
12	at Houston
19	SMU
30	Cincinnati
November	
9	Tennessee-Martin
16	at South Florida
23	at Louisville
30	Temple
December	
7	at Connecticut

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 4-4)

Sept.	1	Tennessee-Martin	L	17–20
Sept.	8	at Arkansas State	L	28–33
Sept.	15	Middle Tennessee	L	30–48
Sept.	22	at Duke	L	14–38
Oct.	6	Rice	W	14–10
Oct.	13	at East Carolina	L	7–41
Oct.	20	UCF	L	17–35
Oct.	27	at SMU	L	13–44
Nov.	3	at Marshall	L	28–38
Nov.	10	Tulane	W	37–23
Nov.	17	at UAB	W	46–9
Nov.	24	Southern Miss	W	42–24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Marquis Warford, RB, San Antonio, TX
2. Jackson Dillon, LB, Ringling, OK
3. Joe Craig, WR, Gaffney, SC*
4. Sam Craft, ATH, Olive Branch, MS
5. Brayden Scott, QB, Tulsa, OK
6. Kewan Alfred, DL, Beaumont, TX*
7. Robert Davis, RB, Tampa, FL
8. Ryan Coleman, LB, Rialto, CA*
9. Doroland Dorceus, RB, Spring, TX
10. Claude George, LB, Scott, LA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	24.4 ppg	9	86
Rushing	151.8 ypg	6	69
Passing	166.6 ypg	12	109
Total	318.3 ypg	12	110
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	30.3 ppg	6	79
Rushing	138.0 ypg	3	32
Passing	245.6 ypg	6	78
Total	383.6 ypg	3	50
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-1	-0.08	6	63

Rutgers
SCARLET KNIGHTS

NATIONAL FORECAST 47
AMERICAN PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Kyle Flood
Record at School: 9-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 9-4 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Ron Prince
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Cohen
Piscataway, NJ
High Point Solutions Stadium (52,454)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

August	
29	at Fresno State
September	
7	Norfolk State
14	Eastern Michigan
21	Arkansas
October	
5	at SMU
10	at Louisville
26	Houston
November	
2	Temple
16	Cincinnati
21	at UCF
30	at Connecticut
December	
7	South Florida

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 5-2)

Sept.	1	at Tulane	W	24-12
Sept.	8	Howard	W	26-0
Sept.	13	at South Florida	W	23-13
Sept.	22	at Arkansas	W	35-26
Oct.	6	Connecticut	W	19-3
Oct.	13	Syracuse	W	23-15
Oct.	20	at Temple	W	35-10
Oct.	27	Kent State	L	23-35
Nov.	10	Army	W	28-7
Nov.	17	at Cincinnati	W	10-3
Nov.	24	at Pittsburgh	L	6-27
Nov.	29	Louisville	L	17-20
Dec.	28	vs. Virginia Tech # (ot)	L	10-13

#Russell Athletic Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dorian Miller, OL, Metuchen, NJ
2. Delon Stephenson, CB, Sayreville, NJ
3. Nadir Barnwell, CB, Piscataway, NJ
4. Andre Patton, WR, Wilmington, DE
5. Myles Nash, LB, Sicklerville, NJ
6. T.J. Taylor, DB, Kendall Park, NJ
7. Kemoko Turay, DE, Newark, NJ
8. Janarion Grant, WR, Trilby, FL
9. Sebastian Joseph, DE, East Stroudsburg, PA
10. Dontea Ayres, RB, Salisbury, MD

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	21.5 ppg	6	96
Rushing	121.4 ypg	7	103
Passing	208.5 ypg	7	86
Total	329.9 ypg	6	104
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	14.2 ppg	1	4
Rushing	97.2 ypg	1	6
Passing	214.5 ypg	4	39
Total	311.6 ypg	2	10
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
+10	+0.77	3	21

OFFENSE New offensive coordinator Ron Prince inherits an experienced quarterback in Gary Nova. But will he get the Nova who managed a 15-to-3 touchdown-to-interception ratio during Rutgers' 7–0 start or the one who had a 7-to-13 ratio during a 2–4 finish? For the season, Nova threw for 2,695 yards and 22 touchdowns. His shining moment came in a 35–26 win at Arkansas, when he threw for 397 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions.

Wide receiver talent is plentiful again, with 6'6" Brandon Coleman on the verge of stardom and sophomore Leonte Carroo showing signs of a bright future. Quron Pratt, Miles Shuler and Ruhann Peele make this a deep unit.

The offensive line returns four starters, though Andre Civil, a 275-pound fifth-year senior, will slide over to right tackle from right guard.

Losing Jawan Jamison, a 1,000-yard rusher who declared for the NFL after his sophomore season, leaves the running game uncertain. Savon Huggins, a former top recruit, rushed for 179 yards against Cincinnati, finishing the year with 410 yards. He has all-conference ability. Paul James, redshirt freshman Desmon Peoples and true freshman Dontea Ayres all have a chance at playing time. The return of fullback Michael Burton from a season-ending leg injury after just four games is a big boost for Rutgers' pro-style offense.

5

With five touchdown catches this year, junior wide receiver Brandon Coleman will set the school's career record with 21. He has 16 in two years despite making only 14 starts.

DEFENSE Two major issues face first-year defensive coordinator Dave Cohen — rebuilding a secondary that lost three starters and replacing Khaseem Greene and Steve Beauharnais at linebacker. Greene was the league's Defensive Player of the Year last season. Beauharnais was a three-year starter in the middle.

Kevin Snyder, who has played extensively, will step in for Greene and does so as a proven playmaker. Promising redshirt freshman Steve Longa is the frontrunner in the middle. Jamal Merrell, third on the team in tackles last season, has shown he's an impact player at the strong side.

The secondary will have Lorenzo Waters returning at strong safety, converted wide receiver Jeremy Deering at free safety and sophomore Tejay Johnson at one corner. The other corner spot is up for grabs, although Lewis Toler, a three-year starter at Western Michigan, is expected to enroll this summer as a graduate transfer who would be eligible immediately.

The defensive line, deep and talented, is shaping up as the defense's strength, with nose tackle Isaac Holmes healthy again and Jamil Merrell returning at end. Former prep All-American Darius Hamilton, now a sophomore, will start at the other defensive tackle spot.

SPECIALISTS A hip injury to starting placekicker Kyle Federico opened the way for walk-on Nick Borgese last year, and both performed well enough to be in position to kick this year. Punter is a concern, but a quick fix is expected from Nick Marsh, a fifth-year graduate student from Utah who is eligible immediately. Deering has been a productive kick returner for the past three years.

FINAL ANALYSIS These are heady times for Rutgers. A year removed from a share of the program's first league title, the school is Big Ten-bound after this season. That makes this year — in the newly named American Athletic Conference — a transition year. That could be the case on the field as well for coach Kyle Flood, whose team staggered to a 2–4 finish despite featuring six players invited to the NFL Combine.

The development of Nova and the revamped back seven hold the keys to this season. If both areas turn out to be a strength, Rutgers can compete for a league title and a BCS berth. If not, the Scarlet Knights could have trouble breaking the .500 mark.

JAMAL MERRELL

THE QUOTE

"They'll be dangerous. (Coach) Kyle (Flood) has done a good job keeping recruiting together in New Jersey."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**17**	**Brandon Coleman (Jr.)**	4	Leonte Carroo (So.)
WR	7	Quron Pratt (Sr.)	14	Miles Shuler (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Kaleb Johnson (Jr.)**	73	Ryan Brodie (Fr.)
LG	**75**	**Antwan Lowery (Sr.)**	76	Marquise Wright (So.)
C	**55**	**Betim Bujari (Jr.)**	65	Dallas Hendrikson (Sr.)
RG	78	Taj Alexander (Jr.)	70	Chris Muller (Fr.)
RT	**66**	**Andre Civil (Sr.)**	74	Keith Lumpkin (So.)
TE	89	Paul Carrezola (Sr.)	86	Tyler Kroft (So.)
QB	**10**	**Gary Nova (Jr.)**	19	Chad Dodd (Sr.)
FB	46	Michael Burton (Jr.)	40	Kevin Marquez (Fr.)
TB	28	Savon Huggins (Jr.)	34	Paul James (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**48**	**Marcus Thompson (Sr.)**	49	Myles Jackson (So.)
DT	72	Isaac Holmes (Sr.)	95	Kenneth Kirksey (Jr.)
DT	91	Darius Hamilton (So.)	98	Daryl Stephenson (So.)
DE	**92**	**Jamil Merrell (Sr.)**	7	Max Issaka (So.)
OLB	45	Kevin Snyder (Jr.)	3	Steve Longa (Fr.)
MLB	3	Steve Longa (Fr.)	22	Quanzell Lambert (Fr.)
OLB	**37**	**Jamal Merrell (Sr.)**	50	Quentin Gause (So.)
CB	9	Tejay Johnson (So.)	27	Delon Stephenson (Fr.)
CB	26	Ian Thomas (Fr.)		Lewis Toler (Sr.)
SS	**21**	**Lorenzo Waters (Jr.)**	29	Davon Jacobs (Fr.)
FS	18	Jeremy Deering (Sr.)	26	Jonathan Aiken (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Kyle Federico (So.)	**KR**	18	Jeremy Deering (Sr.)
P		Nick Marsh (Sr.)	**PR**	14	Miles Shuler (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Gary Nova, 388-221-2,695-16, 22 TDs
Rushing: Savon Huggins, 119 att., 410 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Brandon Coleman, 43 rec., 718 yds., 10 TDs
Tackles: Jamal Merrell, 83
Sacks: Jamal Merrell, 5.5
Interceptions: Lorenzo Waters, 1; Jamal Merrell, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

NATIONAL FORECAST **94**

AMERICAN PREDICTION **8**

SMU MUSTANGS

JEREMY JOHNSON

THE QUOTE

"June Jones is very good, very smart and can find the mismatch in a defense. They establish the running game early."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	7	**Der'rikk Thompson (Jr.)**	6	Stephen Nelson (Jr.)
WR	83	Darius Joseph (So.)	13	Kyle Guinyard (Jr.)
WR	15	**Jeremy Johnson (Sr.)**	9	Ryan Walker (Sr.)
WR	81	Keenan Holman (Sr.)	1	Arrius Holleman (So.)
LT	72	**Ben Gottschalk (Sr.)**	71	Chauncey Briggs (Fr.)
LG	75	Kris Weeks (So.)	74	Christian Chamagua (Fr.)
C	52	**Taylor Lasecki (So.)**	70	Chase Walling (Fr.)
RG	50	Ben Hughes (Jr.)	60	Christian Miller (Jr.)
RT	79	Seaver Myers (Fr.)	58	Taylor Reich (So.)
QB	11	**Garrett Gilbert (Sr.)**	12	Neal Burcham (Fr.)
RB	34	Traylon Shead (Jr.)	29	Prescott Line (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	94	Beau Barnes (Sr.)	95	Andy McCleneghen (So.)
NT	54	Darrian Wright (Jr.)	97	Nick Reed (Fr.)
DE	47	Zach Wood (So.)	41	Elie Nabushosi (Fr.)
OLB	23	**Stephon Sanders (Jr.)**	31	Derek Longoria (So.)
ILB	5	**Randall Joyner (Sr.)**	52	Brandon Henderson (Sr.)
ILB	3	Kevin Pope (Sr.)	2	Jonathan Yenga (So.)
OLB	98	Robert Seals (So.)	34	Jarvis Pruitt (Fr.)
CB	1	**Chris Parks (Sr.)**	27	Horace Richardson (Fr.)
CB	21	**Kenneth Acker (Sr.)**	24	J.R. Richardson (So.)
SS	8	**Jay Scott (Sr.)**	28	Shakiel Randolph (So.)
FS	22	Hayden Greenbauer (Jr.)	6	Daniel Roundtree (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Chase Hover (Sr.)	KR	7	Der'rikk Thompson (Jr.)
P	99	Mike Loftus (Jr.)	PR	21	Kenneth Acker (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Garrett Gilbert, 506-268-2,932-15, 15 TDs

Rushing: Garrett Gilbert, 94 att., 60, 0 TDs

Receiving: Jeremy Johnson, 67 rec., 346 yds., 8 TDs

Tackles: Randall Joyner, 93

Sacks: 4 players tied with 1

Interceptions: Kenneth Acker, 3; Randall Joyner, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

CSM/AP Images

OFFENSE A June Jones-led team ranked No. 62 in passing offense? That was the case a year ago, when quarterback Garrett Gilbert was force-fed the run-and-shoot offense in fall camp and became the opening day starter. Gilbert struggled with consistency but improved later in the season. He didn't throw a pick in his final five regular-season games and showed some running ability that added a wrinkle to the offense.

Year 2 should be smoother, although the Mustangs lack a true NFL-caliber wideout. Starting corner Kenneth Acker may find his way into the wide receiver rotation in a limited role due to his athleticism. Look for Jeremy Johnson to be the go-to receiver for Gilbert, with Der'rikk Thompson fulfilling the role of stretching defenses as a deep threat.

At running back, former Texas Longhorn Traylon Shead has been impressive taking over for Zach Line, a three-time 1,200-yard rusher. Shead spent one year with the Longhorns and one season at a junior college before joining SMU this spring.

Up front, left tackle Ben Gottschalk could garner all-league honors, but the rest of the line is young and inexperienced. The unit's development will be a key.

37

SMU forced 37 turnovers last season, the third-most in the nation, behind Oregon (40) and Kent State (38).

DEFENSE Consistency was also a big problem on the defensive side of the ball for the Mustangs in 2012. Four times, the defense surrendered 10 points or less, and four other times, opponents rung up 42 points or more. Getting a more consistent effort week-to-week is the top priority for defensive coordinator Tom Mason.

The three defensive line starters in the Mustangs' 3-4 alignment are gone. Jones has spoken highly of defensive end Beau Barnes, who was in the rotation last season and will have to be productive as his linemates gain experience. Incoming freshman Zelt Minor, a 3-star recruit who picked SMU over Texas Tech, among others, is expected to come in and compete for time right away in August.

At linebacker, SMU lost two mainstays in Taylor Reed and Ja'Gared Davis, but this still may be the strength of the defense. Returning starters Stephon Sanders and Randall Joyner have potential to be all-league players, and new starters Kevin Pope and Robert Seals could be as productive as Reed and Davis. There is no drop-off expected from the linebacking corps.

In the secondary, Acker and Chris Parks return as starters at corner, with J.R. Richardson, a starter at corner last preseason before an ACL injury ended his season, taking on the nickel role. With strong safety Jay Scott also back, the Mustangs should improve their No. 109 national ranking in pass defense.

SPECIALISTS Both placekicker Chase Hover and punter Mike Loftus are back. Hover struggled from long range, going 3-of-10 from beyond 40, and he also missed a 23-yarder and a 27-yarder en route to his season total of 18-of-29. SMU was 79th in net punting, with Loftus handling the majority of the kicks. Acker and Thompson provide a pair of dangerous return options.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Jones era has featured four straight bowl games. Reaching a fifth could be difficult as the program makes the move from Conference USA to the more challenging American Athletic Conference. A tough non-league slate that includes Texas Tech, Texas A&M and TCU means SMU likely will be 1–3 entering league play. For the bowl string to continue, the Mustangs would then have to go 5–3 in the American against some unfamiliar opponents. For that to happen, Gilbert must take a step forward as a senior, a leader needs to emerge in the receiving corps and some playmakers must develop on the defensive line.

Head Coach: June Jones
Record at School: 31-34 (5 years)
Career Record: 107-75 (14 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
June Jones, Jason Phillips
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Mason
Dallas, TX
Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-5 (AMERICAN)

August	
30	Texas Tech
September	
7	Montana State
21	at Texas A&M
28	at TCU
October	
5	Rutgers
19	at Memphis
26	Temple
November	
9	at Cincinnati
16	Connecticut
23	at South Florida
29	at Houston
December	
7	UCF

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Sept.	2	at Baylor	L	24–59
Sept.	8	Stephen F. Austin	W	52–0
Sept.	15	Texas A&M	L	3–48
Sept.	29	TCU	L	16–24
Oct.	6	at UTEP	W	17–0
Oct.	13	at Tulane	L	26–27
Oct.	18	Houston	W	72–42
Oct.	27	Memphis	W	44–13
Nov.	3	at UCF	L	17–42
Nov.	10	Southern Miss	W	34–6
Nov.	17	at Rice	L	14–36
Nov.	24	Tulsa	W	35–27
Dec.	24	vs. Fresno State #	W	43–10

#Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Traylon Shead, RB, Centerville, TX*
2. Jeremiah Gaines, TE, Red Oak, TX
3. Zelt Minor, DT, Houston, TX
4. Kolney Cassel, QB, Yakima, WA
5. Spencer Hollie, DE, Dublin, CA
6. JaBryce Taylor, WR, Lufkin, TX
7. Carlos Carroll, LB, Tucson, AZ
8. Travis Fister, G, Tucson, AZ
9. Mason Gentry, DE, Plano, TX
10. Cedric Lancaster, CB, Houston, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	30.5 ppg	7	53
Rushing	132.0 ypg	10	93
Passing	235.3 ypg	6	62
Total	367.3 ypg	9	90
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	25.7 ppg	3	54
Rushing	117.9 ypg	1	15
Passing	278.2 ypg	11	109
Total	396.1 ypg	4	62
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+14	+1.08	1	10

South Florida BULLS

NATIONAL FORECAST 71
AMERICAN PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Willie Taggart
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 16-20 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Walt Wells
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bresnahan
Tampa, FL
Raymond James Stadium (65,857)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

August	
31	McNeese State
September	
7	at Michigan State
14	Florida Atlantic
28	Miami (Fla.)
October	
5	Cincinnati
12	at Connecticut
26	Louisville
31	at Houston
November	
16	Memphis
23	SMU
29	at UCF
December	
7	at Rutgers

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 1-6)

Sept.	1	Chattanooga	W	34–13
Sept.	8	at Nevada	W	32–31
Sept.	13	Rutgers	L	13–23
Sept.	22	at Ball State	L	27–31
Sept.	29	Florida State	L	17–30
Oct.	6	at Temple	L	28–37
Oct.	20	at Louisville	L	25–27
Oct.	27	Syracuse	L	36–37
Nov.	3	Connecticut	W	13–6
Nov.	17	at Miami	L	9–40
Nov.	23	at Cincinnati	L	10–27
Dec.	1	Pittsburgh	L	3–27

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derrick Calloway, DT, Bradenton, FL
2. Deadrin Senat, DT, Immokalee, FL
3. Lamar Robbins, DB, Miami, FL
4. Sta'fon McCray, RB, Kissimmee, FL
5. Dominique Threatt, OL, Atlanta, GA
6. Darius Tice, RB, Miami, FL
7. Torrel Saffold, DB, Kansas City, MO*
8. Eric Mayes, DE, Sarasota, FL
9. Nigel Harris, LB, Tampa, FL
10. Nate Godwin, DB, Tampa, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	20.6 ppg	7	104
Rushing	152.0 ypg	4	66
Passing	215.5 ypg	6	78
Total	367.5 ypg	5	89
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	27.4 ppg	7	57
Rushing	149.9 ypg	7	50
Passing	251.9 ypg	7	88
Total	401.8 ypg	7	65
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
-19	-1.58	8	118

OFFENSE Willie Taggart, considered one of the nation's up-and-coming young head coaches after leading Western Kentucky to its first bowl game, has a winning formula that he expects to revive South Florida's underachieving program. Offensively, it revolves around a smart, tough quarterback and a physical running game. The big question: Does either component exist on the Bulls' roster?

The void left behind by B.J. Daniels, a four-year starter who accumulated 10,501 career yards of total offense, will be filled by senior Bobby Eveld or sophomore Matt Floyd. Neither is considered the long-term answer. Freshman Mike White, the only quarterback in Taggart's first recruiting class, could figure in immediately.

In the backfield, only senior Marcus Shaw has appreciable experience, but his career numbers (83 carries for 391 yards) aren't exactly eye-opening. Shaw, haunted by injuries, does have a quick burst and open-field skills. The Bulls could look to junior college transfer Michael Pierre or freshmen Sta'fon McCray and Darius Tice.

There is far more depth at wide receiver, where junior Andre Davis leads the way. Last season, Davis set South Florida single-game records with 12 receptions and 191 yards in a victory at Nevada. But the biggest upside belongs to 6'5" sophomore D'Vario Montgomery.

South Florida has a veteran offensive line, paced by center Austin Reiter and tackle Quinterrius Eatmon, who already has 23 starts. Considering the backfield's work-in-progress outlook, the line's leadership will be vital.

2

South Florida's defense had just two interceptions in 2012 — both occurring in the fourth quarter of a game against Connecticut — to rank last among FBS teams.

DEFENSE New defensive coordinator Chuck Bresnahan, mostly known for his NFL work, seemingly has a difficult task in picking up the pieces from last season's wreckage. Three times last season, the Bulls failed to protect a lead by surrendering 75-yard game-losing touchdown drives in the final minutes. They gave up 228 yards in one quarter (to Nevada) and 34 points in one half (in a 37–36 loss against Syracuse). A lack of takeaways led to a minus-19 turnover ratio.

Bresnahan, though, says he's encouraged by his inherited talent. The pass rush has great potential. Sophomore Aaron Lynch, a Notre Dame transfer and Freshman All-American in 2011 for the Fighting Irish, was virtually unblockable during spring practice. On the other side, senior Ryne Giddins is seeking a return to form after being limited by a shoulder injury last season. Seniors Julius Forte and Tevin Mims should figure into the edge-rush rotation as well.

The linebackers look solid, paced by senior DeDe Lattimore (36 career starts), who shifted from the outside to the middle last season. South Florida's secondary remains the potential problem spot. Most jobs are wide open.

SPECIALISTS The Bulls must replace Maikon Bonani, the program's all-time leading scorer. Junior placekicker Marvin Kloss, one of the nation's top prep kicking prospects in 2010 who handled kickoffs the past two seasons, is favored to win the job. Sophomore Mattias Ciabatti, a former double-duty kicker, has a leg up for punter duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS "Do something." It's the mantra of Taggart — and it's appropriate for a South Florida program that hasn't done nearly enough in recent seasons. The Bulls, picked for second place in last season's Big East poll, were 3–9 and 1–6 in the league. Skip Holtz was fired after losing 14 of his last 16 conference games.

The Bulls, in the retooled American Athletic Conference, just need to do something, as Taggart might say. The recruiting and energy level already have picked up considerably. A winning record and a bowl-game appearance — not seen at South Florida since 2010 — are achievable steps in the right direction.

ANDRE DAVIS

THE QUOTE

"Defensively, they could be good. The key will be corner play. They've had some young guys struggle and had some injuries."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	**81**	**Andre Davis (Jr.)**	87	Derrick Hopkins (Sr.)
WR	83	Deonte Welch (Jr.)	17	D'Vario Mongtomery (So.)
LT	76	Darrell Williams (Jr.)	77	Jake Kaufman (Jr.)
LG	66	Brynjar Gudmundsson (So.)	72	Steven Jacques (Sr.)
C	**78**	**Austin Reiter (Jr.)**	75	Kofi Amichia (Fr.)
RG	64	Thor Jozwiak (So.)	65	Lawrence Martin (Sr.)
RT	**70**	**Quinterrius Eatmon (Jr.)**	71	Mak Djulbegovic (So.)
TE	12	Sean Price (So.)	80	Mike McFarland (Jr.)
QB	13	Bobby Eveld (Sr.)	11	Matt Floyd (So.)
FB	11	Ryan Eppes (Sr.)	45	Brandon Harris (Jr.)
RB	20	Marcus Shaw (Sr.)	45	Michael Pierre (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	19	Aaron Lynch (So.)	54	Julius Forte (Sr.)
DT	**92**	**Luke Sager (Sr.)**	96	Anthony Hill (Sr.)
DT	53	Elkino Watson (Jr.)	90	James Hamilton (So.)
DE	**97**	**Ryne Giddins (Sr.)**	**99**	**Tevin Mims (Sr.)**
OLB	**16**	**Reshard Cliett (Jr.)**	18	Rahmon Swain (Jr.)
MLB	**34**	**DeDe Lattimore (Sr.)**	50	Hans Louis (Jr.)
OLB	52	Zack Bullock (So.)	51	Tashon Whitehurst (So.)
CB	31	Brandon Salinas (Sr.)	21	Torrel Saffold (Jr.)
CB	23	Kenneth Durden (So.)	25	Josh Brown (Sr.)
S	**3**	**Ja'Quez Jenkins (Sr.)**	30	Jalen Spencer (Fr.)
S	**26**	**Mark Joyce (Sr.)**	14	Fidel Montgomery (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Marvin Kloss (Jr.)	**KR**	20	Marcus Shaw (Sr.)
P	49	Mattias Ciabatti (So.)	**PR**	87	Derrick Hopkins (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Matt Floyd, 110-57-466-5, 0 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Shaw, 51 att., 248 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Andre Davis, 46 rec., 534 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: DeDe Lattimore, 76
Sacks: Ryne Giddins, 3.5; DeDe Lattimore, 3.5
Interceptions: Elkino Watson, 1

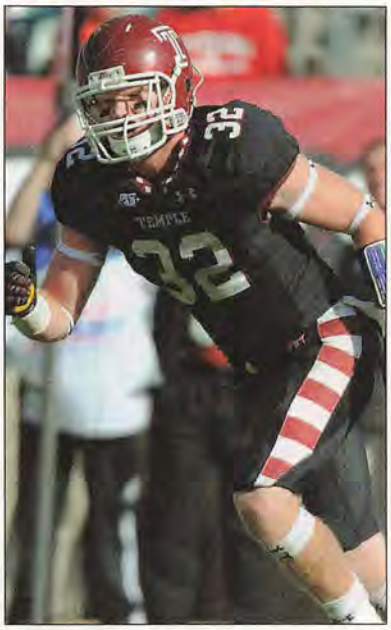
(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Cathleen Allison

NATIONAL FORECAST **97**

AMERICAN PREDICTION **10**

Temple OWLS



TYLER MATAKEVICH

AP Photo/Tomasso DeRosa

THE QUOTE

"I think they had some good players, they just didn't have a quarterback who could throw consistently. They had decent running backs."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	15	Jalen Fitzpatrick (Jr.)	81	John Christopher (So.)
WR	86	Deon Miller (Sr.)	85	Nathan Hairston (Fr.)
WR	87	Ryan Alderman (Sr.)	27	Khalif Herbin (So.)
LT	**54**	**Zach Hooks (So.)**	66	Dion Dawkins (Fr.)
LG	68	Brendan McGowan (Fr.)	**50**	**Jeff Whittingham (Sr.)**
C	**79**	**Kyle Friend (So.)**	70	Jacob Quinn (So.)
RG	62	Scott Roorda (Sr.)	65	Adam Metz (Jr.)
RT	71	Eric Lofton (So.)	75	Elijah Grant (Jr.)
TE	83	Chris Parthemore (Sr.)	98	Alex Jackson (Sr.)
QB	12	Connor Reilly (Jr.)	**10**	**Chris Coyer (Sr.)**
TB	20	Kenny Harper (Jr.)	30	Jamie Gilmore (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	59	Jaimen Newman (Jr.)	51	Brandon Chudnoff (So.)
DT	73	Averee Robinson (Fr.)	93	Kamal Johnson (Sr.)
NT	**99**	**Levi Brown (Sr.)**	72	Hershey Walton (So.)
DE	55	Sean Daniels (Sr.)	52	Avery Ellis (So.)
WLB	**32**	**Tyler Matakevich (So.)**	27	Haason Reddick (Fr.)
MLB	**35**	**Nate D. Smith (So.)**	44	Wyatt Benson (Sr.)
SLB	**33**	**Blaze Caponegro (Sr.)**	53	Rob Dvoracek (So.)
CB	**11**	**Zamel Johnson (Sr.)**	25	Tavon Young (So.)
CB	**10**	**Anthony Robey (Jr.)**	19	Damiere Shaw (Fr.)
SS	28	Chris Hutton (Jr.)	24	Jihaad Pretlow (Fr.)
FS	21	Abdul Smith (Sr.)	29	Stephaun Marshall (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Paul Layton (Sr.)	KR	20	Kenny Harper (Jr.)
P	15	Paul Layton (Sr.)	PR	20	Kenny Harper (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chris Coyer, 164-84-946-4, 8 TDs

Rushing: Chris Coyer, 111 att., 444 yds., 2 TDs

Receiving: Jalen Fitzpatrick, 30 rec., 363 yds., 2 TDs

Tackles: Tyler Matakevich, 101

Sacks: Nate D. Smith, 3.5

Interceptions: Tavon Young, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Former coach Steve Addazio thought he'd found his quarterback when Chris Coyer took over late in 2011 and became the Offensive MVP of the New Mexico Bowl. Then Coyer was replaced late last season by Clinton "Juice" Granger — with mixed results. Now the job has gone to junior Connor Reilly, who was buried on the depth chart in the spread option run by the previous staff. Reilly is the type of drop-back throwing threat that new coach Matt Rhule, the one-time coordinator at Temple under Al Golden, is looking for to improve the Owls' passing game. Freshman P.J. Walker is projected as the quarterback of the future, assuming he doesn't win the job this season.

Rhule is trying to identify a few receivers who can emerge as threats in the passing game. The most logical candidates are Jalen Fitzpatrick, who caught a team-high 30 passes in 2012, Deon Miller and Ryan Alderman.

The Owls must replace two productive running backs in Montel Harris and Matt Brown, both of whom missed stretches last year with injuries. Harris, a former star at Boston College, rushed for 1,054 yards in his only season at Temple. Kenny Harper and Jamie Gilmore, who combined to rush for 159 yards last season, are next up. Freshman Zaire Williams, a top recruit, should get a shot.

25

Temple's five Big East losses came by an average of 25 points, with the "closest" loss coming by 18 points to Syracuse.

The line, though young, returns four players who started at times in 2012. Guard Scott Roorda is the only senior projected to start. Eric Lofton takes over for second-team All-Big East tackle Martin Wallace.

DEFENSE Temple struggled defensively in its first season in the Big East. The Owls ranked last in the league in rushing defense, total defense and scoring defense.

There are, however, some building blocks. Linebacker Tyler Matakevich was the 2012 Big East Rookie of the Year as a true freshman, despite not even playing much until the fourth game. Middle linebacker Nate D. Smith was productive as well, ranking second on the team with 75 tackles. Keep an eye on Haason Reddick, a walk-on redshirt freshman who might play his way into the linebacker rotation.

End Sean Daniels could be the pass-rusher the Owls lacked last season. Levi Brown is a two-year starter at nose tackle.

Anthony Robey, a junior cornerback, played well in the spring. He will be part of a veteran secondary that could start two juniors and two seniors.

SPECIALISTS Brandon McManus, who was a bona fide weapon, handled the placekicking for four years and the punting for the last two. Now that double duty belongs to Paul Layton, a transfer from Albany. Layton, who has only one season of eligibility at Temple, was a two-time All-Northeast Conference pick while at Albany. Layton could be challenged by incoming freshman Jim Cooper, whose father was a big-time kicker for the Owls back in the 1980s.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last year, the Owls transitioned to a new league. Now, the transition is to a new coach. Rhule, who was on the Temple staff from 2006-11, was a popular choice, given his ties with the program and familiarity with most of the players on the roster. Temple won 26 games from '09-11, and Rhule played a vital role in the team's renaissance. Now, it's his show, and the first-time head coach has some lofty goals. "We're here to win championships," Rhule says. "We've been to bowl games and won bowl games, but that's the one thing that's missing from the trophy case."

A conference title, even in the reconfigured (and weaker) league, likely is not in the Owls' immediate future, but this program will have an opportunity to raise its profile in the newly named American Athletic Conference in the coming years.

Head Coach: Matt Rhule
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Satterfield
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Snow
Philadelphia, PA
Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (AMERICAN)

August	
31	at Notre Dame
September	
7	Houston
14	Fordham
28	at Idaho
October	
5	Louisville
11	at Cincinnati
19	Army
26	at SMU
November	
2	at Rutgers
16	UCF
23	Connecticut
30	at Memphis

2012 RESULTS (4-7, 2-5)

Aug.	31	Villanova		W	41-10
Sept.	8	Maryland		L	27-36
Sept.	22	at Penn State		L	13-24
Oct.	6	South Florida		W	37-28
Oct.	13	at Connecticut	(ot)	W	17-14
Oct.	20	Rutgers		L	10-35
Oct.	27	at Pittsburgh		L	17-47
Nov.	3	at Louisville		L	17-45
Nov.	10	Cincinnati		L	10-34
Nov.	17	at Army		W	63-32
Nov.	23	Syracuse		L	20-38

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Zaire Williams, RB, Sicklerville, NJ
2. Kiser Terry, DL, Feasterville, PA
3. Averee Robinson, DL, Harrisburg, PA
4. Jarred Alwan, LB, Cherry Hill, NJ
5. Matt Barone, OL, McKees Rocks, PA
6. Jim Cooper, K, Linwood, NJ
7. Buddy Brown, LB, Williamstown, NJ
8. P.J. Walker, QB, Elizabeth, NJ
9. Semaj Reed, OL, Havertown, PA
10. Todd Jeter, DB, Monroeville, PA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	24.7 ppg	5	84
Rushing	201.2 ypg	2	31
Passing	120.8 ypg	8	116
Total	322.0 ypg	7	107
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
Scoring	31.2 ppg	8	86
Rushing	199.8 ypg	8	100
Passing	237.4 ypg	6	66
Total	437.2 ypg	8	90
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big East**	**National**
-2	-0.18	6	75

UCF KNIGHTS

NATIONAL FORECAST 51
AMERICAN PREDICTION 4

Head Coach: George O'Leary
Record at School: 60-55 (9 years)
Career Record: 112-88 (16 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Taaffe
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Fleming
Orlando, FL
Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

August	
29	Akron
September	
7	at FIU
14	at Penn State
28	South Carolina
October	
5	at Memphis
18	at Louisville
26	Connecticut
November	
9	Houston
16	at Temple
21	Rutgers
29	South Florida
December	
7	at SMU

2012 RESULTS (10-4, 7-1)

Aug.	30	at Akron		W	56-14
Sept.	8	at Ohio State		L	16-31
Sept.	15	FIU		W	33-20
Sept.	29	Missouri		L	16-21
Oct.	4	East Carolina		W	40-20
Oct.	13	Southern Miss	(ot)	W	38-31
Oct.	20	at Memphis		W	35-17
Oct.	27	at Marshall		W	54-17
Nov.	3	SMU		W	42-17
Nov.	10	at UTEP		W	31-24
Nov.	17	at Tulsa		L	21-23
Nov.	24	UAB		W	49-24
Dec.	1	at Tulsa %	(ot)	L	27-33
Dec.	21	vs. Ball State #		W	38-17

%C-USA Championship #Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Justin Holman, QB, Snellville, GA
2. Shaquill Griffin, DB, St. Petersburg, FL
3. D.J. Killings, DB, Jacksonville, FL
4. Seyvon Lowry, DE, Jacksonville, FL
5. Chequan Burkett, LB, Montgomery, AL
6. Shaquem Griffin, DB, St. Petersburg, FL
7. Mario Mathis, LB, Thomasville, GA
8. Blake Keller, DE, Bradenton, FL
9. Micah Reed, RB, Crestview, FL
10. Pete DiNovo, QB, Tarpon Springs, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	35.4 ppg	2	25
Rushing	181.8 ypg	3	44
Passing	225.6 ypg	8	68
Total	407.4 ypg	7	57
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	22.1 ppg	1	27
Rushing	155.9 ypg	5	56
Passing	217.7 ypg	1	41
Total	373.6 ypg	2	42
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+12	+0.86	2	16

OFFENSE Blake Bortles was a revelation at quarterback for UCF in 2012. This fall, he could be revealed to a much larger audience.

After throwing for 3,059 yards and 25 touchdowns as a sophomore, Bortles comes back in his second season as the starter with an offense that will look to air it out more, according to UCF coach George O'Leary.

The 6'5" quarterback has a full complement of weapons around him, most notably in a deep receiving corps that can beat you with size and speed, from the inside-out. Sophomore Breshad Perriman, son of former NFL wide receiver Brett Perriman, could have a big year after hauling in 26 catches for 388 yards and three touchdowns as a true freshman. And J.J. Worton and Jeff Godfrey, a former quarterback, are matchup nightmares for opposing teams out of the slot.

The Knights are strong across the offensive line, led by left tackle Torrian Wilson.

Storm Johnson, who began his career at Miami, will get a chance to be the featured back this year with Latavius Murray headed to the NFL.

Bortles, though, is the most intriguing prospect of them all. And if he has the season coaches believe he is capable of, UCF could make some noise in its first season in the American Athletic Conference.

174

Blake Bortles had 174 consecutive pass attempts without an interception to end last season, a streak that will carry over into 2013.

DEFENSE UCF lost a good chunk of veterans from last season's team that allowed only 22.1 points per game, and O'Leary will look to young players to step into those roles this season.

The defensive line is the one area where the Knights may be better, boosted especially by the addition of 300-pounder Demetris Anderson at tackle and the solid pass-rushing ability of sophomore ends Thomas Niles and Deion Green. UCF struggled up front against the run in 2012, allowing 155.9 yards per game, but will be bigger and more physical this fall. Behind them, though, the picture is murkier.

Terrance Plummer will look to hold together the linebacking corps from the Mike position. The 6'1", 229-pound junior is entering his second full year as a starter, and he led the linebackers with 108 tackles last season. The spots around him could be a rotation, however.

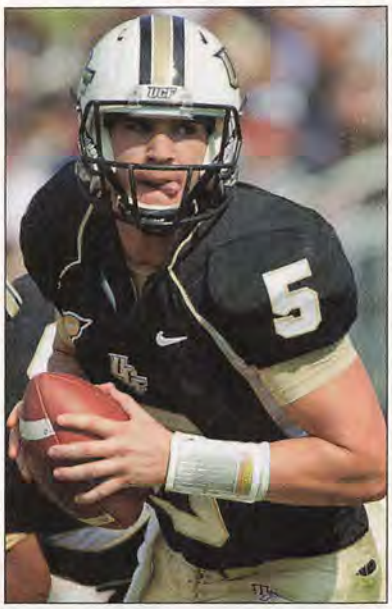
In the secondary, UCF lost safety Kemal Ishmael and cornerback A.J. Bouye, and while juniors Clayton Geathers and Brandon Alexander both started last season, the Knights will look to freshmen to help fill the other spots.

SPECIALISTS It looks like redshirt freshman Caleb Houston has the early lead to replace Jamie Boyle, who averaged 40.6 yards per punt last year. The Knights expect Shawn Moffitt to hold onto his kicking job after he connected on 10-of-14 field goals last season. Replacing kickoff returner Quincy McDuffie, who had three return touchdowns and led the country in return average, will be a tough task.

FINAL ANALYSIS The knock on UCF has long been its inability to string together winning seasons. With Bortles at the head of an experienced and versatile offense, the Knights feel like they're primed to match their 10-win output from 2012 and silence those critics.

The key will be the growth and development on the other side of the ball, however.

If UCF can develop its defense and find the right players to plug into several key holes in the secondary and at linebacker, it might find a way to challenge for a conference title with the likes of Louisville and Cincinnati. If not, the Knights could struggle against a consistently higher level of competition than they ever faced in Conference USA.



BLAKE BORTLES

THE QUOTE

"They have a solid quarterback (Blake Bortles) and playmakers on offense with an experienced line."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**9**	**J.J. Worton (Jr.)**	**6**	Rannell Hall (Jr.)
WR	81	Breshad Perriman (So.)	20	Taylor Oldham (Fr.)
WR	2	Jeff Godfrey (Sr.)	19	Josh Reese (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Torrian Wilson (Jr.)**	74	Michael Campbell (Fr.)
LG	**63**	**Jordan McCray (Sr.)**	65	Kelly Parfitt (Fr.)
C	55	Joey Grant (So.)	61	Tarik Cook (So.)
RG	**64**	**Justin McCray (Sr.)**	76	Colby Watson (Fr.)
RT	70	Chris Martin (Sr.)		Jordan Prestwood (So.)
TE	**84**	**Justin Tukes (Jr.)**	87	Cal Bloom (Fr.)
QB	**5**	**Blake Bortles (Jr.)**	3	Tyler Gabbert (Jr.)
RB	8	Storm Johnson (Jr.)	17	Cedric Thompson (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	47	Deion Green (So.)	92	Luke Adams (Fr.)
DT	**95**	**E.J. Dunston (Sr.)**	90	Micah Anderson (Fr.)
DT	94	Demetris Anderson (So.)	97	Chester Brown (Fr.)
DE	69	Thomas Niles (So.)		Blake Keller (Fr.)
OLB	57	Troy Gray (Jr.)		Chequan Burkett (Fr.)
MLB	**41**	**Terrance Plummer (Jr.)**	52	Maurice Russell (Fr.)
OLB	15	Mike Easton (Jr.)	23	Willie Mitchell (Jr.)
CB	12	Jacoby Glenn (Fr.)	29	D.J. Killings (Fr.)
CB	**37**	**Brandon Alexander (Jr.)**	24	Jeremy Davis (Fr.)
SS	**26**	**Clayton Geathers (Jr.)**		Shaquem Griffin (Fr.)
FS	30	Nicco Whigham (So.)	21	Drico Johnson (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	83	Shawn Moffitt (Jr.)	**KR**	6	Rannell Hall (Jr.)
P	48	Caleb Houston (Fr.)	**PR**	9	J.J. Worton (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Bortles, 399-251-3,059-7, 25 TDs
Rushing: Storm Johnson, 113 att., 507 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: J.J. Worton, 44 rec., 594 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Clayton Geathers, 117
Sacks: Thomas Niles, 5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

CSM/AP Images

PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	CLINT CHELF	6-1	210	Sr.	Oklahoma State
RB	LACHE SEASTRUNK	5-10	210	Jr.	Baylor
RB	JAMES SIMS	6-0	202	Sr.	Kansas
FB	TREY MILLARD	6-2	259	Sr.	Oklahoma
WR	JOSH STEWART	5-10	185	Jr.	Oklahoma State
WR	ERIC WARD	6-0	204	Sr.	Texas Tech
C	GABE IKARD	6-3	298	Sr.	Oklahoma
G	TREY HOPKINS	6-4	300	Sr.	Texas
G	CYRIL RICHARDSON	6-5	335	Sr.	Baylor
T	CORNELIUS LUCAS	6-9	328	Sr.	Kansas State
T	DARYL WILLIAMS	6-6	315	Jr.	Oklahoma

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DEVONTE FIELDS	6-4	240	So.	TCU
DE	JACKSON JEFFCOAT	6-5	245	Sr.	Texas
DT	CALVIN BARNETT	6-2	300	Sr.	Oklahoma State
DT	KERRY HYDER	6-2	281	Sr.	Texas Tech
LB	BRYCE HAGER	6-2	235	Jr.	Baylor
LB	BEN HEENEY	6-0	227	Jr.	Kansas
LB	JORDAN HICKS	6-2	235	Jr.	Texas
CB	AARON COLVIN	6-0	181	Sr.	Oklahoma
CB	JASON VERRETT	5-10	176	Sr.	TCU
S	SAM CARTER	6-1	215	Jr.	TCU
S	TY ZIMMERMAN	6-1	204	Sr.	Kansas State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JADEN OKERKROM	6-3	187	So.	TCU
P	KIRBY VAN DER KAMP	6-4	211	Sr.	Iowa State
KR	JUSTIN GILBERT	6-0	200	Sr.	Oklahoma State
PR	TRAMAINE THOMPSON	5-8	167	Sr.	Kansas State

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	CASEY PACHALL	6-5	230	Sr.	TCU
RB	JOHNATHAN GRAY	5-11	207	So.	Texas
RB	JEREMY SMITH	5-10	208	Sr.	Oklahoma State
WR	MIKE DAVIS	6-2	193	Sr.	Texas
WR	TEVIN REESE	5-10	170	Sr.	Baylor
TE	JACE AMARO	6-5	257	Jr.	Texas Tech
C	B.J. FINNEY	6-4	303	Jr.	Kansas State
G	PARKER GRAHAM	6-7	315	Sr.	Oklahoma State
G	MASON WALTERS	6-6	320	Sr.	Texas
T	LE'RAVEN CLARK	6-5	303	So.	Texas Tech
T	SPENCER DRANGO	6-6	315	So.	Baylor

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DARTWAN BUSH	6-1	256	Sr.	Texas Tech
DE	CHRIS MCALLISTER	6-3	255	Sr.	Baylor
DT	JAMES CASTLEMAN	6-2	296	Jr.	Oklahoma State
DT	CHUCKY HUNTER	6-1	300	Jr.	TCU
LB	EDDIE LACKEY	6-0	225	Sr.	Baylor
LB	CALEB LAVEY	6-3	235	Sr.	Oklahoma State
LB	SHAUN LEWIS	5-11	225	Sr.	Oklahoma State
CB	CARRINGTON BYNDOM	6-0	180	Sr.	Texas
CB	QUANDRE DIGGS	5-10	200	Jr.	Texas
S	AHMAD DIXON	6-0	205	Sr.	Baylor
S	KARL JOSEPH	5-10	200	So.	West Virginia

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MICHAEL HUNNICUTT	6-1	169	Jr.	Oklahoma
P	ETHAN PERRY	6-4	230	So.	TCU
KR	TYLER LOCKETT	5-11	175	Jr.	Kansas State
PR	JALEN SAUNDERS	5-9	160	Sr.	Oklahoma

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. OKLAHOMA STATE **COWBOYS** — 10-2, 7-2 BIG 12
2. OKLAHOMA **SOONERS** — 9-3, 7-2 BIG 12
3. TEXAS **LONGHORNS** — 9-3, 6-3 BIG 12
4. TCU **HORNED FROGS** — 8-4, 6-3 BIG 12
5. KANSAS STATE **WILDCATS** — 8-4, 5-4 BIG 12
6. BAYLOR **BEARS** — 8-4, 5-4 BIG 12
7. TEXAS TECH **RED RAIDERS** — 7-5, 4-5 BIG 12
8. WEST VIRGINIA **MOUNTAINEERS** — 6-6, 3-6 BIG 12
9. IOWA STATE **CYCLONES** — 5-7, 2-7 BIG 12
10. KANSAS **JAYHAWKS** — 3-9, 0-9 BIG 12

Layne Murdoch Jr.

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Oklahoma
2. Texas
3. Baylor
4. West Virginia
5. Oklahoma State
6. TCU
7. Kansas
8. Texas Tech
9. Iowa State
10. Kansas State

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	7	2	6	4	6	1	6
IOWA STATE	10	10	8	6	8	9	5
KANSAS	9	3	10	10	10	8	10
KANSAS STATE	6	7	7	2	9	6	7
OKLAHOMA	3	4	2	1	5	4	3
OKLAHOMA STATE	1	5	1	5	3	2	4
TCU	2	6	5	7	1	7	1
TEXAS	4	1	3	3	2	3	2
TEXAS TECH	5	8	4	9	4	5	8
WEST VIRGINIA	8	9	9	8	7	10	9

Baylor BEARS

NATIONAL FORECAST **36**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Art Briles
Record at School: 33-30 (5 years)
Career Record: 67-58 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Philip Montgomery
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Bennett
Waco, TX
Floyd Casey Stadium (50,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-4 (BIG 12)

August	
31	Wofford
September	
7	Buffalo
21	UL Monroe
October	
5	West Virginia
12	at Kansas State
19	Iowa State
26	at Kansas
November	
7	Oklahoma
16	vs. Texas Tech #
23	at Oklahoma State
30	at TCU
December	
7	Texas

#Arlington, TX

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 4-5)

Sept.	2	SMU	W	59–24
Sept.	15	Sam Houston State	W	48–23
Sept.	21	at UL Monroe	W	47–42
Sept.	29	at West Virginia	L	63–70
Oct.	13	TCU	L	21–49
Oct.	20	at Texas	L	50–56
Oct.	27	at Iowa State	L	21–35
Nov.	3	Kansas	W	41–14
Nov.	10	at Oklahoma	L	34–42
Nov.	17	Kansas State	W	52–24
Nov.	24	vs. Texas Tech % (ot)	W	52–45
Dec.	1	Oklahoma State	W	41–34
Dec.	27	vs. UCLA #	W	49–26

%Arlington #Holiday Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Robbie Rhodes, WR, Fort Worth, TX
2. Andrew Billings, DT, Waco, TX
3. Brian Nance, LB, Euless, TX
4. Maurice Porter, OL, Missouri City, TX
5. Raaquan Davis, LB, Rockwall, TX
6. Johnny Jefferson, RB, Killeen, TX
7. Quan Jones, WR, Wylie, TX
8. Alfred Pullom, DB, Cypress, TX
9. Chris Johnson, QB, Bryan, TX
10. Kyle Fulks, DB, Katy, TX

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	44.5 ppg	2	4
Rushing	231.7 ypg	1	14
Passing	340.5 ypg	2	4
Total	572.2 ypg	1	2
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	37.2 ppg	9	110
Rushing	178.7 ypg	7	76
Passing	323.5 ypg	10	119
Total	502.2 ypg	10	119
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+2	+0.15	5	50

OFFENSE Baylor's a long way from being Quarterback U., but few coaches in the country have a better track record at that position than Art Briles. The sixth-year Baylor head coach's body of work goes back to state champion Branndon Stewart at Stephenville (Texas) High School (1993-94) and includes Kevin Kolb and Case Keenum at the University of Houston and 2011 Heisman winner Robert Griffin III and record-setter Nick Florence at Baylor.

"That's just coach Briles and his staff," says 6'3", 230-pound junior Bryce Petty, who's poised to be the next in that line. "They do a great job of putting us in positions to succeed. There are expectations, always, but there's no pressure. You just have to get our team in position to win and get us to a bowl game."

Petty, who has thrown only 14 passes in limited mop-up duty the last two seasons, follows the school's only two 4,000-yard passers (RG3 and Florence). But he seems to have all the tools and confidence it takes.

The line is probably a bigger concern, especially with starting right tackle Troy Baker going down in the spring with a torn ACL. That leaves left tackle Spencer Drango and All-America guard Cyril Richardson as the only experienced hands on deck.

Running backs Lache Seastrunk and Glasco Martin combined for 1,901 yards last season and form one of the best 1-2 punches in the country. Even after losing All-American Terrance Williams, the Bears are still loaded at receiver with Tevin Reese, Levi Norwood, Antwan Goodley, Jay Lee and high school All-American Robbie Rhodes.

831
Over the final six games last season, running back Lache Seastrunk rushed for 831 yards and six TDs on 102 carries for a healthy 8.2-yard average.

"The potential is unlimited," Martin says. "We've got a great quarterback in Bryce, and we've got two good running backs that run downhill and can make the big play. We're really going to keep defenses on their heels."

DEFENSE As bad as the defense looked in giving up a school-record 807 yards in a 70–63 loss to West Virginia in last year's Big 12 opener, third-year coordinator Phil Bennett saw the team's potential in a late-season win over then-No. 1 Kansas State and a 49–26 Holiday Bowl win over UCLA.

Linebackers Bryce Hager and Eddie Lackey, a pair of second-team All-Big 12 picks, were key pieces in the defense's second-half resurgence. Hager had a Big 12-best 124 tackles, while Lackey made 104 tackles, 13 stops behind the line and a team-high four interceptions.

Sam Holl, a two-year starter at safety, makes the move to complete a salty linebacking corps, while fellow senior Ahmad Dixon is a natural at safety. The Bears are also solid at corner with an experienced rotation of Joe Williams, K.J. Morton and former Gonzaga point guard Demetri Goodson.

Up front, returning ends Terrance Lloyd and Chris McAllister are joined by Beau Blackshear and former prep All-American Javonte Magee, a converted end.

SPECIALISTS Including long snapper Zach Northern and holder Brody Trahan, the Bears return all their specialists. Senior kicker Aaron Jones has shattered the school record with 327 points, while punter Spencer Roth had a 43.8-yard average with 13 of his 36 kicks downed inside the 20.

FINAL ANALYSIS Admittedly, Briles is biased, but he likes his team — a lot: "I feel like we're going to win (the league title) every year," he says. Petty seems more than capable of taking the Bears to their fourth straight bowl game. But the offensive line will have to hold up, and the defense has to be much better if the Bears plan on being a factor in the Big 12 title chase.

LACHE SEASTRUNK

THE QUOTE

"You have to stop a team like that on third down ... because otherwise they will wear on you because they are home run hitters."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	4	Jay Lee (So.)	23	Clay Fuller (Jr.)
WR	5	Antwan Goodley (Jr.)		Robbie Rhodes (Fr.)
IR	**16**	**Tevin Reese (Sr.)**	42	Levi Norwood (Jr.)
LT	**58**	**Spencer Drango (So.)**	69	Pat Colbert (So.)
LG	**68**	**Cyril Richardson (Sr.)**	60	LaQuan McGowan (So.)
C	54	Stefan Huber (Sr.)	55	Kyle Fuller (Fr.)
RG	67	Desmine Hilliard (So.)	79	Jason Osei (Fr.)
RT	77	Kelvin Palmer (Sr.)	**75**	**Troy Baker (Jr.)**
TE	18	Jordan Najvar (Sr.)	20	Jerod Monk (Sr.)
QB	14	Bryce Petty (Jr.)	17	Seth Russell (Fr.)
RB	25	Lache Seastrunk (Jr.)	8	Glasco Martin (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**31**	**Chris McAllister (Sr.)**	92	Jamal Palmer (So.)
NT	95	Beau Blackshear (So.)		Andrew Billings (Fr.)
DT	90	Javonte Magee (So.)	98	Trevor Clemons-Valdez (So.)
DE	**11**	**Terrance Lloyd (Jr.)**	2	Shawn Oakman (So.)
WLB	**5**	**Eddie Lackey (Sr.)**	15	Brody Trahan (Sr.)
MLB	**44**	**Bryce Hager (Jr.)**	20	Aiavion Edwards (Fr.)
OLB	**25**	**Sam Holl (Sr.)**	1	Prince Kent (Sr.)
CB	3	Demetri Goodson (Sr.)	8	K.J. Morton (Sr.)
CB	**22**	**Joe Williams (Sr.)**	18	Xavien Howard (Fr.)
S	**6**	**Ahmad Dixon (Sr.)**	28	Orion Stewart (Fr.)
S	13	Terrell Burt (So.)	19	Ryan Reid (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Aaron Jones (Sr.)	KR	5	Antwan Goodley (Jr.)
P	36	Spencer Roth (Jr.)	PR	42	Levi Norwood (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Bryce Petty, 10-7-97-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Lache Seastrunk, 131 att., 1,012 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Tevin Reese, 53 rec., 957 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Bryce Hager, 124
Sacks: Chris McAllister, 6
Interceptions: Eddie Lackey, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

NATIONAL FORECAST 57
BIG 12 PREDICTION 9

Iowa State CYCLONES

JACQUES WASHINGTON

THE QUOTE

"They are a pretty much average offensive line. But they can move the ball, and they have experience running the ball."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	9	Quenton Bundrage (So.)	13	Dondre Daley (Fr.)
WR	6	Tad Ecby (So.)	4	P.J. Harris (Fr.)
WR	1	Jarvis West (Jr.)	18	Albert Gary (Sr.)
LT	65	Jacob Gannon (Jr.)	72	Brock Dagel (So.)
LG	78	Bob Graham (Jr.)	77	Oni Omoile (So.)
C	74	**Tom Farniok (Jr.)**	56	Ben Loth (Jr.)
RG	64	**Ethan Tuftee (Sr.)**	70	Daniel Burton (Fr.)
RT	69	**Kyle Lichtenberg (Sr.)**	76	Jamison Lalk (So.)
TE	84	**Ernst Brun (Sr.)**	11	E.J. Bibbs (Jr.)
QB	12	Sam Richardson (So.)	3	Grant Rohach (Fr.)
RB	8	**James White (Sr.)**	20	DeVondrick Nealy (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	50	**Willie Scott (Sr.)**	69	Nick Kron (So.)
DT	18	Collin Bevins (Fr.)	92	Austin Krick (Jr.)
NG	93	Brandon Jensen (Jr.)	95	Walter Woods III (Sr.)
DE	87	David Irving (Jr.)	48	Cory Morrissey (Jr.)
OLB	14	Jared Brackens (Jr.)	44	Alton Meeks (Fr.)
MLB	52	**Jeremiah George (Sr.)**	41	Darius White (Fr.)
OLB	55	Jevohn Miller (Jr.)	21	Luke Knott (Fr.)
CB	2	**Jansen Watson (Sr.)**	4	Sam Richardson (So.)
CB	6	Kenneth Lynn (So.)	11	Charlie Rogers (Fr.)
SS	26	Deon Broomfield (Sr.)	22	T.J. Mutcherson (Fr.)
FS	5	**Jacques Washington (Sr.)**	7	Cliff Stokes (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	41	Edwin Arceo (Sr.)	KR	1	Jarvis West (Jr.)
P	13	Kirby Van Der Camp (Sr.)	PR	1	Jarvis West (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sam Richardson, 79-46-541-1, 8 TDs
Rushing: James White, 99 att., 505 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jarvis West, 31 rec., 290 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jacques Washington, 90
Sacks: Four players tied with 1
Interceptions: Jacques Washington, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

OFFENSE The quarterback competition is not as wide open as in previous years, but tabbing Sam Richardson the starter is not a slam dunk. The sophomore is, however, the only quarterback on the roster with game experience, and he has the clear edge over strong-armed redshirt freshman Grant Rohach.

Who Richardson's targets will be is not as clear. The top three-pass catchers from last season are gone, leaving sophomore Quenton Bundrage as the player expected to step into the role as ISU's No. 1 receiver. He'll get help from veterans Jarvis West and Albert Gary and group of speedy youngsters.

The Cyclones are stacked at running back. James White, Jeff Woody and Shontrelle Johnson — although he's coming off a knee injury — are known commodities. Most interesting, and possibly with the most upside, are junior college transfer Aaron Wimberly and sophomore DeVondrick Nealy. Wimberly ran for 1,125 yards and 13 touchdowns in his final season at Iowa Western Community College.

Of course, the key to the running backs' effectiveness is the guys who are blocking for them. A majority of the line returns, led by center Tom Farniok and guard Ethan Tuftee.

24

The Cyclones are 21–3 in Coach Paul Rhoads' four seasons when opponents score fewer than 24 points.

DEFENSE The Jake Knott and A.J. Klein era is over, and it'll take a while for Cyclone players, coaches and fans to get used to life without the first-team All-Big 12 linebackers. There still is a Knott at linebacker, younger brother Luke, who will get a shot at replacing his brother. Jeremiah George takes over as this group's leading man, and the senior middle backer is ready for that responsibility. He should challenge for All-Big 12 honors.

Three-fourths of the defensive line also needs to be replaced. Coaches will look to players like Willie Scott and David Irving, along with junior college transfer Rodney Coe, to fortify the edge. On the inside it'll be by committee, maybe more so than usual because there's so much youth.

There is a ton of experience in the secondary with seniors Jacques Washington, Deon Broomfield and Jansen Watson. Watson missed spring practice due to injury but will be fully ready this fall.

SPECIALISTS Punter Kirby Van Der Kamp is one of the Big 12's best. He averaged 41.0 yards on his conference-leading 77 attempts in 2012. The staff would like to see less of him this season. Edwin Arceo and redshirt freshman Cole Netten are vying for the placekicking duties. Arceo was a pleasant surprise last season, hitting 12-of-18 field goals, two from 50-plus yards. The Cyclones need to improve in the return game, particularly kickoffs, an area where they ranked last in the Big 12 a year ago.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cyclones have reached the postseason three of the last four years, and each time they outperformed expectations to get there. That will have to be the case again this season in their quest for (at least) six wins and a bowl bid.

The pieces are in place offensively to improve upon last year's production (24.5 points and 364.2 yards per game), and it has to in order to be a factor in the Big 12. The defense lost a number of important players whose absence will be felt tremendously. Untested players will have to step in and have an impact right away for ISU to have any shot at reaching its goals.

The program is on the up-tick, in a lot of ways. Fan support has always been strong, and with the success under coach Paul Rhoads it's reached unprecedented heights. Fans should expect growing pains, especially on defense, although there's a chance to once again be playing and practicing in December.

Head Coach: Paul Rhoads
Record at School: 24-27 (4 years)
Career Record: 24-27 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Courtney Messingham
Defensive Coordinator: Wally Burnham
Ames, IA
Jack Trice Stadium (55,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 2-7 (BIG 12)

August		
31	Northern Iowa	
September		
14	Iowa	
26	at Tulsa	
October		
3	Texas	
12	at Texas Tech	
19	at Baylor	
26	Oklahoma State	
November		
2	at Kansas State	
9	TCU	
16	at Oklahoma	
23	Kansas	
29	at West Virginia	

2012 RESULTS (6-7, 3-6)

Sept.	1	Tulsa	W	38–23
Sept.	8	at Iowa	W	9–6
Sept.	15	Western Illinois	W	37–3
Sept.	29	Texas Tech	L	13–24
Oct.	6	at TCU	W	37–23
Oct.	13	Kansas State	L	21–27
Oct.	20	at Oklahoma State	L	10–31
Oct.	27	Baylor	W	35–21
Nov.	3	Oklahoma	L	20–35
Nov.	10	at Texas	L	7–33
Nov.	17	at Kansas	W	51–23
Nov.	23	West Virginia	L	24–31
Dec.	31	vs. Tulsa #	L	17–31

#Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jake Campos, OL, West Des Moines, IA
2. Aaron Wimberly, RB, Snellville, GA*
3. Vernell Trent, DL, Jacksonville, FL
4. Joel Lanning, QB, Ankeny, IA
5. Alton Meeks, LB, Orlando, FL
6. Nigel Tribune, DB, Jacksonville, FL
7. Shawn Curtis, OL, Orlando, FL
8. E.J. Bibbs, TE, Chicago, IL*
9. Rodney Coe, DE, Fulton, MO*
10. Justin Madison, LB, Tampa, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	24.5 ppg	9	85
Rushing	150.1 ypg	9	73
Passing	214.1 ypg	8	79
Total	364.2 ypg	9	92
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	23.9 ppg	3	38
Rushing	176.9 ypg	6	75
Passing	265.3 ypg	6	99
Total	442.2 ypg	7	94
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
0	0.00	6	58

Kansas JAYHAWKS

NATIONAL FORECAST **88**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **10**

Head Coach: Charlie Weis
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 36-38 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Weis
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Campo
Lawrence, KS
Memorial Stadium (50,071)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 0-9 (BIG 12)

September		
7	South Dakota	
14	at Rice	
21	Louisiana Tech	
October		
5	Texas Tech	
12	at TCU	
19	Oklahoma	
26	Baylor	
November		
2	at Texas	
9	at Oklahoma State	
16	West Virginia	
23	at Iowa State	
30	Kansas State	

2012 RESULTS (1-11, 0-9)

Sept.	1	South Dakota State		W	31-17
Sept.	8	Rice		L	24-25
Sept.	15	TCU		L	6-20
Sept.	22	at Northern Illinois		L	23-30
Oct.	6	at Kansas State		L	16-56
Oct.	13	Oklahoma State		L	14-20
Oct.	20	at Oklahoma		L	7-52
Oct.	27	Texas		L	17-21
Nov.	3	at Baylor		L	14-41
Nov.	10	at Texas Tech	(ot)	L	34-41
Nov.	17	Iowa State		L	23-51
Dec.	1	at West Virginia		L	10-59

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Marquel Combs, DT, Memphis, TN*
2. Marcus Jenkins-Moore, LB, Louisville, KY*
3. Chris Martin, DE, Oakland, CA*
4. Cassius Sendish, CB, Waldorf, MD*
5. Ngalu Fusimalohi, OL, Daily City, CA*
6. Mike Smithburg, OL, Fairfield, IA*
7. Isaiah Johnson, S, Cary, NC*
8. Andrew Bolton, DE, Bolton, MS*
9. Samson Faifili, LB, Taylorsville, UT*
10. Trevor Pardula, K/P, San Jose, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	18.3 ppg	10	115
Rushing	211.7 ypg	3	22
Passing	148.7 ypg	10	113
Total	360.3 ypg	10	93
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	36.1 ppg	8	109
Rushing	192.6 ypg	10	91
Passing	289.3 ypg	8	114
Total	481.8 ypg	9	113
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-3	-0.25	8	78

OFFENSE For the second straight season, the hopes of the Kansas offense rest on the arm of a former 5-star recruit. BYU transfer Jake Heaps, a junior, enters the season as the man at quarterback. Heaps threw for 2,316 yards with 15 touchdowns and nine interceptions as a freshman at BYU but struggled as a sophomore. Heaps might never live up to his prep billing, but it's a safe bet he will be more productive than last year's transfer quarterback, Dayne Crist.

Kansas would love to see more production in the passing game, but the strength of the offense figures to be the rushing attack, which ranked third in the Big 12 last season. The Jayhawks return their top three running backs, most notably senior James Sims, who led the Big 12 in rushing yards per game (112.6). Sims ripped off a school-record six straight 100-yard games — all against Big 12 opponents — and finished with career highs in yards (1,013) and carries (218) while scoring nine touchdowns.

The receiving corps will have a new look in 2013. Coach Charlie Weis believes junior Andrew Turzilli, who averaged 16.9 yards on his 17 receptions in 2012, has the ability to be the team's best deep threat. Oklahoma transfer Justin McCay is eligible and will have an opportunity to play a big role.

The offensive line, one of the biggest strengths in 2012, figures to be one of the biggest question marks heading into 2013, as the Jayhawks will look to replace three multi-year starters up front.

0
Kansas wide receivers did not catch a touchdown pass during the entire 2012 season. As a team, the Jayhawks threw seven touchdowns.

DEFENSE In junior linebacker Ben Heeney, who finished third in the Big 12 in tackles in 2012, the Jayhawks have a solid building block on defense. After Heeney, however, the unit could be made up almost entirely of newcomers. Weis has said that several first-year Jayhawks could wind up starting this fall for a defense that struggled in all phases last season.

"I've still got seven juco kids coming in on defense that are in the mix," Weis said at the end of spring drills. "Personnel-wise, the overhaul on defense is going to be dramatic."

The most notable of the newcomers is Marquel Combs, a 6'3", 310-pound defensive tackle from Pierce (Calif.) College who was regarded as the No. 1 junior college recruit nationally by ESPN. Combs' teammate at Pierce, linebacker Marcus Jenkins-Moore, and defensive end Andrew Bolton, from Hinds (Miss.) Community College, are also expected to make an impact.

Two junior college transfers who arrived in time for spring practice impressed the staff — defensive end Chris Martin, a former Florida Gator, and cornerback Cassius Sendish.

SPECIALISTS Kansas' kicking game was poor in all facets in 2012, so Weis turned to the junior college ranks to address the situation. Trevor Pardula averaged 40.9 yards per punt at De Anza (Calif.) College last season. Michael Mesh earned All-America honors last season at nearby Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College and agreed to join the Kansas program as a walk-on. Ron Doherty, who handled both duties last year — but not well — is back, but he will have a tough time beating out the transfers.

FINAL ANALYSIS Buoyed by the return of a group of running backs that made KU one of the top rushing teams in the Big 12, Weis is confident that, with Heaps now eligible at quarterback, the Jayhawks will be more productive on offense. The defense should be improved as well, thanks to an influx of ready-made junior college players. Still, the 2013 season figures to be a struggle. Kansas was by far the worst team in the league last year and will need to show significant progress this fall to climb out of the Big 12 basement.

JAMES SIMS

THE QUOTE

"This is probably the worst team in the conference. They just don't have the talent. ... That's just a tough job right now."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	19	Justin McCay (Jr.)	12	Christian Matthews (Sr.)
WR	82	Andrew Turzilli (Jr.)	11	Tre' Parmalee (So.)
LT	61	Pat Lewandowski (Jr.)	79	Riley Spencer (Sr.)
LG	63	Ngalu Fusimalohi (Jr.)	**64**	**Randall Dent (Sr.)**
C	65	Mike Smithburg (Jr.)	66	Dylan Admire (So.)
RG	73	Damon Martin (So.)	70	Gavin Howard (Sr.)
RT	**77**	**Aslam Sterling (Sr.)**	74	Brian Beckmann (Fr.)
TE	41	Jimmay Mundine (Jr.)	85	Trent Smiley (Jr.)
QB	9	Jake Heaps (Jr.)	14	Michael Cummings (So.)
RB	3	Tony Pierson (Jr.)	20	Colin Spencer (Fr.)
RB	**29**	**James Sims (Sr.)**	36	Taylor Cox (Sr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	56	Chris Martin (Jr.)	93	Ben Goodman (So.)
DT		Marquel Combs (Jr.)	**96**	**Keba Agostinho (Sr.)**
NT	98	Keon Stowers (Jr.)	97	Ty McKinney (Jr.)
DE		Andrew Bolton (Jr.)	**9**	**Jordan Tavai (Sr.)**
WLB		Marcus Jenkins-Moore (Jr.)	57	Jake Love (So.)
MLB	**31**	**Ben Heeney (Jr.)**	52	Darius Willis (Sr.)
SLB		Samson Faifili (Jr.)	58	Courtney Arnick (Fr.)
CB	33	Cassius Sendish (Jr.)	24	JaCorey Shepherd (Jr.)
CB	12	Dexter McDonald (Jr.)		Kevin Short (Jr.)
SS		Isaiah Johnson (So.)	22	Greg Allen (Fr.)
FS	23	Dexter Linton (Jr.)	30	Tevin Shaw (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Michael Mesh (Jr.)	**KR**	3	Tony Pierson (Jr.)
P	16	Trevor Pardula (Jr.)	**PR**	11	Tre' Parmalee (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Michael Cummings, 94-43-456-4, 3 TDs
Rushing: James Sims, 218 att., 1,013 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Tony Pierson, 21 rec., 291 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Ben Heeney, 112;
Sacks: Kevin Young, 1.5
Interceptions: Bradley McDougald, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Ric Fogel

NATIONAL FORECAST	31
BIG 12 PREDICTION	5

Kansas State WILDCATS

JOHN HUBERT

THE QUOTE

"They are losing a lot — almost everyone from the front seven, I believe — but they'll be insane again, don't worry. They'll reload somehow."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE Will Daniel Sams take over as starting quarterback? Or is Jake Waters the man for the job? Those questions will hang over Kansas State until late August. The two quarterbacks were on an even footing throughout spring practices, and coach Bill Snyder is in no hurry to name a starter. Why should he be? He has two promising options.

Sams showed his athleticism while serving as Collin Klein's backup last season, running for 235 yards and three touchdowns in the fourth quarter of blowouts. He also has a strong arm but has rarely been asked to pass during games. After improving his playbook knowledge in the offseason, he believes he is ready to lead an offense. Waters comes to K-State a year removed from leading Iowa Western Community College to a national championship. He put up eye-popping stats along the way, and teammates rave about his throwing ability. Though he isn't as quick as Sams, he is known as a mobile quarterback.

Whoever wins the job will be walking into a good situation. K-State's entire starting offensive line is back, led by junior center B.J. Finney and massive (6'9", 328) left tackle Cornelius Lucas.

147

K-State outscored is opponents by 147 points in the second half of games last season — an average of 11.3 points per game.

There is also ample talent at the skill positions, with the return of explosive receivers Tyler Lockett and Tramaine Thompson as well as running back John Hubert. Now a senior, Hubert has rushed for just under 1,000 yards in each of the last two seasons.

DEFENSE Ty Zimmerman has earned all-conference honors in all three of his seasons with K-State and was named third-team All-America by the Associated Press last year. The safety may need to be even better as a senior.

K-State returns an inexperienced group on defense that will be looking to Zimmerman for big plays and leadership.

The Wildcats lose nine starters on defense, including all-conference linebacker Arthur Brown and talented pass-rusher Meshak Williams. K-State will break in four new defensive linemen, replace three starting linebackers and both cornerbacks.

Tre Walker, a former starter who is coming back from an injury, will be asked to lead at linebacker along with fellow senior Blake Slaughter. Ryan Mueller (two sacks in 2012) and Travis Britz will need to do more up front. Randall Evans is coming off a promising season as a member of K-State's nickel defense, but he may need to switch to cornerback full time this year with the losses of Nigel Malone and Allen Chapman. Several junior college transfers will be in the mix for key roles in the secondary.

SPECIALISTS Anthony Cantele and Ryan Doerr were staples of K-State's special teams unit in past seasons, so they won't be easily replaced. Cantele's younger brother, Jack, is the favorite to take over as kicker while a handful of players are competing at punter. The Wildcats are more stable in the return game. Thompson is always a threat as a punt returner, and Lockett is one of the nation's top kick returners. They both scored touchdowns on returns last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS K-State has improved its record each and every season since Snyder came out of retirement in 2009. From six wins his first year back to seven victories and a bowl game to 10 wins and the Cotton Bowl to 11 victories and a Big 12 championship last season — the Wildcats have continually gotten better.

But that upward trend will be difficult to continue with the losses of Heisman finalist Klein, wideout Chris Harper, Brown, and several other key defensive starters.

The Wildcats return enough talent to be a threat in the Big 12, but not enough for another BCS bowl.

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**16**	**Tyler Lockett (Jr.)**	88	Torell Miller (Sr.)
WR	**86**	**Tramaine Thompson (Sr.)**	81	Kyle Klein (So.)
WR	14	Curry Sexton (Jr.)	6	Deante Burton (Fr.)
LT	**78**	**Cornelius Lucas (Sr.)**	64	Tomasi Mariner (Jr.)
LG	77	Boston Stiverson (So.)	72	Aderius Epps (Fr.)
C	**66**	**B.J. Finney (Jr.)**	61	Drew Liddle (Jr.)
RG	**79**	**Keenan Taylor (Sr.)**	68	William Cooper (Sr.)
RT	**55**	**Cody Whitehair (So.)**	**73**	**Tavon Rooks (Sr.)**
TE	18	Andre McDonald (Sr.)	85	Zach Trujillo (Jr.)
QB	4	Daniel Sams (So.)	15	Jake Waters (Jr.)
TB	**33**	**John Hubert (Sr.)**	5	Robert Rose (Sr.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	45	Marquel Bryant (So.)		Tanner Wood (Fr.)
DT	98	Chaquil Reed (Sr.)	62	Xavier Gates (So.)
DT	95	Travis Britz (So.)	97	Demonte Hood (Fr.)
DE	44	Ryan Mueller (Jr.)	42	Devon Nash (Jr.)
LB	50	Tre Walker (Sr.)	52	Mike Moore (So.)
LB	53	Blake Slaughter (Sr.)	35	Will Davis (Fr.)
LB	21	Jonathan Truman (Jr.)		Nick Ramirez (Fr.)
CB	**15**	**Randall Evans (Jr.)**	7	Kip Daily (Sr.)
CB	33	Morgan Burns (So.)	2	Carl Miles (Sr.)
SS	**12**	**Ty Zimmerman (Sr.)**	9	Kent Gainous (Jr.)
FS	22	Dante Barnett (So.)	39	Cameron Morgan (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	3	Jack Cantele (So.)	**KR**	16 Tyler Lockett (Jr.)
P	48	Ethan Hammes (Jr.)	**PR**	86 Tramaine Thompson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Daniel Sams, 8-6-55-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: John Hubert, 189 att., 947 yds., 15 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Lockett, 44 rec., 687 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Randall Evans , 76
Sacks: Ryan Mueller, 2
Interceptions: Ty Zimmerman, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Umphery

Head Coach: Bill Snyder
Record at School: 170-85-1 (21 years)
Career Record: 170-85-1 (21 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Dana Dimel, Del Miller
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Hayes
Location: Manhattan, KS
Stadium: Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-4 (BIG 12)

August	
31	North Dakota State
September	
7	UL Lafayette
14	UMass
21	at Texas
October	
5	at Oklahoma State
12	Baylor
26	West Virginia
November	
2	Iowa State
9	at Texas Tech
16	TCU
23	Oklahoma
30	at Kansas

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 8-1)

Sept.	1	Missouri State	W	51–9
Sept.	8	Miami (Fla.)	W	52–13
Sept.	15	North Texas	W	35–21
Sept.	22	at Oklahoma	W	24–19
Oct.	6	Kansas	W	56–16
Oct.	13	at Iowa State	W	27–21
Oct.	20	at West Virginia	W	55–14
Oct.	27	Texas Tech	W	55–24
Nov.	3	Oklahoma State	W	44–30
Nov.	10	at TCU	W	23–10
Nov.	17	at Baylor	L	24–52
Dec.	1	Texas	W	42–24
Jan.	3	vs. Oregon #	L	17–35

#Fiesta Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tanner Wood, DE, Conway Springs, KS
2. Jake Waters, QB, Council Bluffs, IA*
3. Nick Ramirez, LB, Lee's Summit, MO
4. Devon Nash, DE, Lincoln, NE*
5. Travis Green, DB, Omaha, NE*
6. Jordan Willis, DE, Kansas City, MO
7. Isaiah Williams, LB, Dallas, TX
8. Cre Moore, DB, Broken Arrow, OK
9. Dakorey Johnson, LB, Mesquite, TX*
10. LeAndrew Gordon, WR, Arlington, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	38.9 ppg	4	11
Rushing	194.0 ypg	4	32
Passing	207.4 ypg	9	89
Total	401.4 ypg	7	59
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	22.1 ppg	1	28
Rushing	126.9 ypg	2	20
Passing	248.5 ypg	5	82
Total	375.3 ypg	3	45
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+19	+1.46	1	3

Oklahoma

SOONERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 17
BIG 12 PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Bob Stoops
Record at School: 149-37 (14 years)
Career Record: 149-37 (14 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Josh Heupel, Jay Norvell
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Stoops
Location: Norman, OK
Stadium: Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 7-2 (BIG 12)

August		
31	UL Monroe	
September		
7	West Virginia	
14	Tulsa	
28	at Notre Dame	
October		
5	TCU	
12	vs. Texas #	
19	at Kansas	
26	Texas Tech	
November		
7	at Baylor	
16	Iowa State	
23	at Kansas State	
December		
7	at Oklahoma State	

#Dallas, TX

2012 RESULTS (10-3, 8-1)

Sept.	1	at UTEP	W	24-7
Sept.	8	Florida A&M	W	69-13
Sept.	22	Kansas State	L	19-24
Oct.	6	at Texas Tech	W	41-20
Oct.	13	vs. Texas %	W	63-21
Oct.	20	Kansas	W	52-7
Oct.	27	Notre Dame	L	13-30
Nov.	3	at Iowa State	W	35-20
Nov.	10	Baylor	W	42-34
Nov.	17	at West Virginia	W	50-49
Nov.	24	Oklahoma State (ot)	W	51-48
Dec.	1	at TCU	W	24-17
Jan.	4	vs. Texas A&M #	L	13-41

%Dallas #Cotton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Keith Ford, RB, Cypress, TX
2. Cody Thomas, QB, Colleyville, TX
3. Stanvon Taylor, CB, Tulsa, OK
4. Hatari Byrd, S, Fresno, CA
5. D.J. Ward, DE, Moore, OK
6. L.J. Moore, CB, Fresno, CA
7. Kerrick Huggins, DT, Dallas, TX
8. Matt Dimon, DE, Katy, TX
9. Ahmad Thomas, S, Miami, FL
10. Josiah St. John, OT, Toronto, ON*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	38.2 ppg	5	15
Rushing	161.4 ypg	7	60
Passing	336.5 ypg	3	5
Total	497.9 ypg	4	12
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	25.5 ppg	4	50
Rushing	192.2 ypg	9	89
Passing	206.1 ypg	2	29
Total	398.3 ypg	4	64
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-4	-0.31	9	80

OFFENSE Rarely under Bob Stoops has Oklahoma been so uncertain at quarterback, or so unclear on the direction of the offense. Yet also under Stoops, Oklahoma always seems to produce positive answers.

Gone is Landry Jones, whose 39 career wins were the most in the rich history of the program. His top two receivers are gone, too.

And a buzz about a move to more of a read-option offense hovered around the team in the offseason, with the combatants in an ongoing quarterback competition — Blake Bell, Trevor Knight and Kendal Thompson — all logical fits for such an attack.

Now, that's not to say the Sooners will abandon the air-it-out attack that has produced double-digit win totals in 11 of Stoops' 14 seasons.

"We will never give up anything as far as our quarterbacks having the ability to pass," says co-offensive coordinator Josh Heupel. "That's our primary focus first. We have great skill guys, and we want to make sure we're able to distribute the ball to those guys. But certainly the guys we have on campus are a little bit different than Landry."

Bell has experience, having played key moments in 20 games. Yet most have come in the "Belldozer" package, designed to utilize him in the short-yardage run game. It's a role Bell has flourished in, scoring 24 touchdowns on 104 rushes over two seasons. But the former 5-star prospect has more rushing TDs than pass attempts (20) and must prove he's capable of succeeding as a thrower as well as a runner.

14

OU has played in bowl games in each of Bob Stoops' 14 seasons, featuring eight BCS bowls and including the Rose, Sugar, Orange and Fiesta.

While Bell is the only quarterback with game experience, the competition was on in the spring, with Thompson and Knight very much in the mix.

A line that returns four starters and is anchored by first-team All-Big 12 center Gabe Ikard should be a strength in aiding OU's transition.

And there are proven skill players in place, with running back Damien Williams, receiver Jalen Saunders and hybrid fullback/tight end Trey Millard all capable of all-conference seasons.

DEFENSE A major makeover is taking place on the defensive side of the ball. Just four starters return overall, leaving major questions along the front seven. Even in the secondary, where experience exists, position shuffles and shaky previous performances linger among several of the starters.

Aaron Colvin is the headliner, a shutdown corner who produced four interceptions and a team-high 11 passes defended a year ago, earning first-team All-Big 12 honors. Beyond Colvin in the secondary, the Sooners are banking on a cast that includes everything from transfers to a player coming off suspension to true freshmen.

Defensive tackle Chuka Ndulue, linebacker Corey Nelson and safety Gabe Lynn are the other returning starters. Everywhere else, there's a need for players to develop — and do so quickly.

SPECIALISTS Michael Hunnicutt gives the Sooners a reliable weapon in the kicking game. He made 17-of-21 field goals a year ago. Coaches are hoping junior college transfer Jed Barnett fills the void at punter. The return game is solid.

FINAL ANALYSIS For a change, the Sooners aren't considered Big 12 favorites. All the question marks and a rugged schedule that includes trips to Notre Dame and Kansas State as well as rival Oklahoma State create a major challenge for a team in transition.

Oklahoma remains a contender, surely capable of claiming another conference crown — there's plenty of talent on the roster — yet the Sooners seemingly need so much to go right on both sides of the ball to hang another championship banner.

"It doesn't change anything whatsoever," Stoops says. "We've never put much stock or cared where we were or weren't picked."

DAMIEN WILLIAMS

THE QUOTE

"Blake Bell is an effective goal line guy but not sure how he'll do as the primary option. He might do great, but the jury's still out."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	17	Trey Metoyer (So.)	12	Derrick Woods (Fr.)
WR	8	**Jalen Saunders (Sr.)**	5	Durron Neal (So.)
WR	3	Sterling Shepard (So.)	16	Jaz Reynolds (Sr.)
LT	79	**Daryl Williams (Jr.)**	72	Derek Farniok (So.)
LG	74	**Adam Shead (Jr.)**	50	Austin Woods (Sr.)
C	64	**Gabe Ikard (Sr.)**	56	Ty Darlington (So.)
RG	68	**Bronson Irwin (Sr.)**	54	Nila Kasitati (So.)
RT	71	Tyrus Thompson (Jr.)		Josiah St. John (Jr.)
QB	10	Blake Bell (Jr.)	9	Trevor Knight (Fr.)
FB	33	**Trey Millard (Sr.)**	48	Aaron Ripkowski (Jr.)
RB	26	**Damien Williams (Sr.)**	24	Brennan Clay (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	99	Chaz Nelson (Jr.)	84	Mike Onuoha (So.)
DT	98	**Chuka Ndulue (Jr.)**	94	Torrea Peterson (Jr.)
DT		Quincy Russell (Jr.)	80	Jordan Phillips (So.)
DE	91	Charles Tapper (So.)	85	Geneo Grissom (Jr.)
LB	7	**Corey Nelson (Sr.)**	25	Aaron Franklin (Jr.)
LB	20	Frank Shannon (So.)	19	Eric Striker (So.)
CB	14	**Aaron Colvin (Sr.)**	23	Kass Everett (Sr.)
CB	22	Cortez Johnson (So.)		L.J. Moore (Fr.)
NIC	2	Julian Wilson (Jr.)	15	Zack Sanchez (Fr.)
SS	10	Quentin Hayes (Jr.)	18	Ahmad Thomas (Fr.)
FS	9	**Gabe Lynn (Sr.)**		Hatari Byrd (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Michael Hunnicutt (Jr.)	KR	24	Brennan Clay (Sr.)
P	44	Jed Barnett (Jr.)	PR	8	Jalen Saunders (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Bell, 16-9-107-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Damien Williams, 176 att., 946 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Jalen Saunders 62 rec., 829 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Aaron Colvin, 61
Sacks: Chuka Ndulue, 5
Interceptions: Aaron Colvin, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Chris Covatta

NATIONAL FORECAST 16
BIG 12 PREDICTION 1

Oklahoma State COWBOYS

JOSH STEWART

THE QUOTE

"Mike Gundy knows what he's looking for with that offense. They've perfected what they are doing over there, so they should be fine."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	87	Tracy Moore (Sr.)	81	Jhajuan Seales (Fr.)
WR	17	**Charlie Moore (Sr.)**	7	Brandon Sheperd (So.)
IR	18	Blake Jackson (Sr.)	84	**Austin Hays (So.)**
IR	5	**Josh Stewart (Jr.)**	13	David Glidden (So.)
LT	69	Devin Davis (So.)	74	Michael Wilson (Fr.)
LG	51	Brandon Webb (Sr.)	76	Eli Dickerson (Jr.)
C	54	Jake Jenkins (Jr.)	50	Zac Veatch (Fr.)
RG	71	**Parker Graham (Sr.)**	75	Chris Grisbhy (Jr.)
RT	58	**Daniel Koenig (Jr.)**	67	Brandon Garrett (Jr.)
QB	10	Clint Chelf (Sr.)	4	J.W. Walsh (So.)
RB	31	Jeremy Smith (Sr.)	26	Desmond Roland (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	40	Tyler Johnson (Sr.)	89	Sam Wren (Jr.)
DT	99	**Calvin Barnett (Sr.)**	98	Davidell Collins (Sr.)
DT	91	**James Castleman (Jr.)**	94	Anthony Rogers (Sr.)
DE	92	Jimmy Bean (So.)	90	Trace Clark (So.)
LB	11	**Shaun Lewis (Sr.)**	29	Joe Mitchell (Sr.)
LB	45	**Caleb Lavey (Sr.)**	42	Demarcus Sherod (So.)
LB	52	Ryan Simmons (So.)	32	Kris Catlin (So.)
CB	4	**Justin Gilbert (Sr.)**		Jerel Morrow (Fr.)
CB	1	Kevin Peterson (So.)	6	Ashton Lampkin (So.)
SS	27	Lyndell Johnson (Jr.)	7	**Shamiel Gary (Sr.)**
FS	8	**Daytawion Lowe (Sr.)**	20	Larry Stephens (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Ben Grogan (Fr.)	KR	4 Justin Gilbert (Sr.)
P		Ben Grogan (Fr.)	PR	5 Josh Stewart (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Clint Chelf, 197-119-1,588-6, 15 TDs
Rushing: Jeremy Smith, 70 att., 371 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Josh Stewart, 101 rec., 1,210 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Daytawion Lowe, 75
Sacks: Tyler Johnson, 4
Interceptions: Three players tied with 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE There's the age-old theory that a team that has two quarterbacks has no quarterback. Well, what's the thought on three?

For the Cowboys, their quarterbacking trio — senior Clint Chelf and sophomores J.W. Walsh and Wes Lunt — conjures nothing but positive thoughts. All three started and won Big 12 games a year ago. And none of the three lost the job due to poor performance, but rather injuries that sidelined Lunt and Walsh, clearing the way for the former third-teamer Chelf to seize the spot. Once handed the controls to OSU's high-octane offense, Chelf thrived, starting the final five games and earning MVP honors at the Heart of Dallas Bowl after directing a rout of Purdue. Chelf also earned the trust of teammates and head coach Mike Gundy, putting him atop the depth chart entering the season. And after opening last season as an afterthought, he enters this season with complete confidence.

"Knowing I've played and have some experience under my belt, that just makes you more comfortable as a player and more confident in your ability," Chelf says. "I definitely feel a lot better."

7

OSU has won at least seven games in a school-record seven straight seasons, also earning bowl bids in a school-record seven straight years.

There's still competition, and knowledge of what all three have accomplished. Whoever stands behind center will operate with many major weapons and a stout offensive line. Receivers Josh Stewart and Tracy Moore are both All-Big 12 types. And other pass-catching options are plentiful in OSU's spread attack, which is bent on playing even faster under new offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich.

Two-time All-Big 12 back Joseph Randle must be replaced, but Jeremy Smith vows he's ready for the spotlight, and he's been good enough in reserve to score 25 career touchdowns.

DEFENSE After seasons of being perceived as the weak link of the team, the defense has adopted an attack mentality. New coordinator Glenn Spencer, who replaced the fired Bill Young, is charged with orchestrating a change that is wildly popular among players.

"Now we get to play a lot more aggressive," says cornerback Justin Gilbert. "And that's going to be a lot better for us."

There's talent in place, from the league's best tackle tandem in Calvin Barnett and James Castleman, to veteran and productive linebackers Shaun Lewis and Caleb Lavey, to safety Daytawion Lowe. Gilbert needs to play more like he did in a standout 2011 season than his scuffling effort of last season, but the potential is there.

And a cast of young players moving into more prominent roles has stirred optimism among the defensive staff.

SPECIALISTS Gilbert is a dynamic kickoff return man, already owning the school record with five touchdown returns. Stewart offers similar potential on punt returns. But the kicking and punting chores — a program staple — are in flux. And the Cowboys may have to rely on true freshman Ben Grogan to replace three-year standout Quinn Sharp in both roles.

FINAL ANALYSIS The bar is set high for the Cowboys — Big 12 championship high, with 12 returning starters and even more promising players on the rise. The schedule opens with a challenge: a date with improving SEC squad Mississippi State, in Houston. The Cowboys get TCU and Oklahoma, arguably their two major challengers in the Big 12, at home.

Gundy must be careful to keep the quarterback situation under control, as all three have tasted life as the starter and certainly hunger for more. So far, it hasn't been an issue. Otherwise, it should be business as usual on offense, which during the Gundy era has been big business. If the defense makes a smooth transition to an attacking approach, the Cowboys will be hard to beat in the Big 12.

Head Coach: Mike Gundy
Record at School: 67-35 (8 years)
Career Record: 67-35 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Yurcich
Defensive Coordinator: Glenn Spencer
Location: Stillwater, OK
Stadium: Boone Pickens Stadium (60,218)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 7-2 (BIG 12)

August	
31	vs. Mississippi State #
September	
7	at UTSA
14	Lamar
28	at West Virginia
October	
5	Kansas State
19	TCU
26	at Iowa State
November	
2	at Texas Tech
9	Kansas
16	at Texas
23	Baylor
December	
7	Oklahoma

#Houston, TX

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Sept.	1	Savannah State		W	84–0
Sept.	8	at Arizona		L	38–59
Sept.	15	UL Lafayette		W	65–24
Sept.	29	Texas		L	36–41
Oct.	13	at Kansas		W	20–14
Oct.	20	Iowa State		W	31–10
Oct.	27	TCU		W	36–14
Nov.	3	at Kansas State		L	30–44
Nov.	10	West Virginia		W	55–34
Nov.	17	Texas Tech		W	59–21
Nov.	24	at Oklahoma	(ot)	L	48–51
Dec.	1	at Baylor		L	34–41
Jan.	1	vs. Purdue #		W	58–14

#Heart Of Dallas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Marcell Ateman, WR, Dallas, TX
2. Ra'Shaad Samples, WR, Dallas, TX
3. Naim Mustafaa, DE, College Park, GA
4. Jordan Sterns, S, Cibolo, TX
5. Jerel Morrow, CB, Emporia, KS
6. Sam Wren, DE, Palestine, TX*
7. Tre Flowers, S, Converse, TX
8. Jack Kurzu, OL, St. Louis, MO
9. Ofa Hautau, DT, Salt Lake City, UT*
10. Corion Webster, RB, Atlanta, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	45.7 ppg	1	3
Rushing	215.3 ypg	2	21
Passing	331.7 ypg	4	7
Total	547.0 ypg	2	4
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	28.2 ppg	5	64
Rushing	141.7 ypg	3	37
Passing	280.0 ypg	7	110
Total	421.7 ypg	6	80
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
0	0.00	6	58

Layne Murdoch Jr.

TCU HORNED FROGS

NATIONAL FORECAST **20**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Gary Patterson
Record at School: 116-36 (12 years)
Career Record: 116-36 (12 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Jarrett Anderson, Rusty Burns
Defensive Coordinator: Dick Bumpas
Location: Fort Worth, TX
Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (45,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 6-3 (BIG 12)

August		
31	vs. LSU #	
September		
7	SE Louisiana	
12	at Texas Tech	
28	SMU	
October		
5	at Oklahoma	
12	Kansas	
19	at Oklahoma State	
26	Texas	
November		
2	West Virginia	
9	at Iowa State	
16	at Kansas State	
30	Baylor	

#Arlington, TX

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-5)

Sept.	8	Grambling	W	56-0
Sept.	15	at Kansas	W	20-6
Sept.	22	Virginia	W	27-7
Sept.	29	at SMU	W	24-16
Oct.	6	Iowa State	L	23-37
Oct.	13	at Baylor	W	49-21
Oct.	20	Texas Tech (ot)	L	53-56
Oct.	27	at Oklahoma State	L	14-36
Nov.	3	at West Virginia (ot)	W	39-38
Nov.	10	Kansas State	L	10-23
Nov.	22	at Texas	W	20-13
Dec.	1	Oklahoma	L	17-24
Dec.	29	vs. Michigan State #	L	16-17

#Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kyle Hicks, RB, Arlington, TX
2. Tevin Lawson, DT, Denham Springs, LA
3. Sammy Douglas, LB, Arlington, TX
4. Ranthony Texada, CB, Frisco, TX
5. Patrick Morris, OL, Plano, TX
6. Eason Fromayan, OL, Alpharetta, GA
7. Dac Shaw, LB, Mineola, TX
8. Steve Wesley, CB, Arlington, TX
9. George Baltimore, S, Mansfield, TX
10. Trevorris Johnson, RB, Houston, TX

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	28.3 ppg	8	66
Rushing	152.1 ypg	8	65
Passing	236.5 ypg	7	61
Total	388.6 ypg	8	72
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	22.6 ppg	2	30
Rushing	105.4 ypg	1	10
Passing	218.5 ypg	4	42
Total	323.9 ypg	1	16
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+3	+0.23	4	47

OFFENSE Technically, TCU returns five starters on offense, but a more accurate number would be eight.

Not only has quarterback Casey Pachall returned, but so has former leading rusher Waymon James and projected starting tight end Stephen Bryant. Both James and Bryant were sidelined with season-ending injuries in 2012, and Pachall returns after missing the final nine games when he left school to seek treatment for substance abuse.

Pachall has been given the chance to earn his starting job back from Trevone Boykin, who filled in admirably as a redshirt freshman. Boykin is talented and does a better job improvising, but Pachall has a stronger arm and a firmer grasp of the offense. Now a senior, Pachall could be the story of the year in college football if he stays healthy — physically and mentally — and helps TCU compete for a Big 12 title.

James' return is as big as Pachall's. He led the Frogs in rushing in 2011 and was off to a good start before injuring his knee in Week 2. If TCU's line can shore up its depth issues, the Horned Frogs could emerge as the team to beat in the Big 12.

DEFENSE Nine starters return to a TCU defense that ranked first in the league and 16th nationally.

The two losses are big — defensive end Stansly Maponga and linebacker Kenny Cain — but the Frogs have been at their best in the Gary Patterson era when their secondary is deep and experienced. And that's the case in 2013. Led by strong safety Sam Carter and All-America cornerback Jason Verrett, TCU intercepted 21 passes last season and helped slow down the wide-open offenses of the Big 12.

5.7
TCU's defense forced an average of 5.7 three-and-outs per game, ranked second nationally only to Florida State's 6.3.

Associated Press Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Devonte Fields recorded 18.5 tackles for a loss and 10 sacks coming from the right edge, but he will have operate this fall without Maponga coming from the left side. Fields leads a deep and talented defensive line that should be one of the league's best.

The one area of concern is linebacker, where Marcus Mallet and former walk-on Joel Hasley will likely start. Hasley and Mallet showed they could stop the run in '12, but too often were beaten in coverage. Former safety Jonathan Anderson moved to linebacker in the spring and could bring an element of speed.

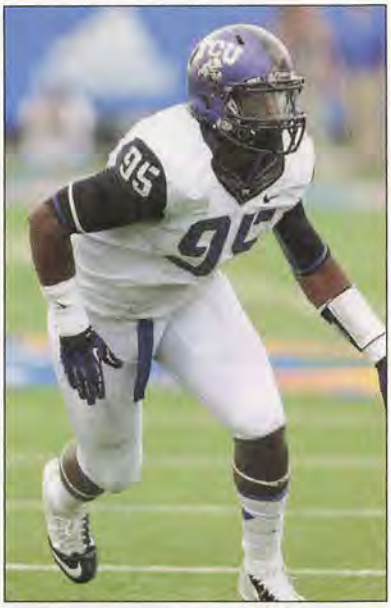
SPECIALISTS Both kicker Jaden Oberkrom and punter Ethan Perry performed well as true freshmen in 2012. Oberkrom made 22-of-30 field goals, including all six attempts in a triple-overtime loss to Texas Tech, one shy of tying an NCAA single-game record. Perry's 44.5-yard punting average is the second-best all-time at TCU and the best average since 1981. Deanté Gray's career opened with a bang when he returned his first punt 70 yards for a score in the 2012 season opener, finishing with a TCU-record 160 return yards. Gray, Verrett and Brandon Carter could all be used on punt and kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's a tangible sense of optimism surrounding TCU as it prepares for its second season in the Big 12.

Patterson has a veteran team — as many as 15 of the projected starting 22 players are juniors or seniors. That wasn't the case in 2012, when TCU fielded one of the youngest teams in the country.

"This is finally a year where we're a little bit older," Patterson said during spring camp. "The last two years we've been young, so the guys know what they're doing."

But two big areas of concern could cause TCU a lot of problems. The offensive line is thin and inexperienced. The linebacker corps, long a steady cornerstone of the Frogs' defense, is dreadfully lacking in depth. If Patterson can solve these two problem areas, TCU should find itself in position to win a conference title.



DEVONTE FIELDS

THE QUOTE

"How good is (quarterback) Casey Pachall? Very talented. Good athlete. Good thrower. Helluva competitor."

—An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	3	Brandon Carter (Jr.)	20	Deanté Gray (So.)
WR	85	**LaDarius Brown (So.)**	9	Josh Doctson (So.)
WR	1	Ja'Juan Story (So.)	14	David Porter (Jr.)
LT	59	**Tayo Fabuluje (Jr.)**	74	Halapoulivaati Vaitai (So.)
LG	56	Joey Hunt (So.)		Lloyd Tunstill (Jr.)
C	73	**Eric Tausch (Sr.)**	56	Joey Hunt (So.)
RG	71	Michael Thompson (Jr.)	75	John Wooldridge (Sr.)
RT	69	**Aviante Collins (So.)**		James Dunbar (Sr.)
TE	49	Stephen Bryant (Jr.)	87	Griffin Gilbert (So.)
QB	4	Casey Pachall (Sr.)	2	**Trevone Boykin (So.)**
RB	32	Waymon James (Sr.)	23	B.J. Catalon (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

LE	97	Jon Koontz (Sr.)	91	Matt Anderson (Jr.)
DT	96	**Chucky Hunter (Jr.)**	99	Terrell Lathan (So.)
DT	57	**Davion Pierson (So.)**	98	Jon Lewis (Jr.)
RE	95	**Devonte Fields (So.)**	40	James McFarland (So.)
SLB	54	Marcus Mallet (Jr.)	47	Paul Dawson (Jr.)
MLB	36	**Joel Hasley (Jr.)**	41	Jonathan Anderson (Jr.)
CB	2	**Jason Verrett (Sr.)**	16	Keivon Gamble (Sr.)
CB	25	**Kevin White (Jr.)**	13	David Jenkins (So.)
SS	17	**Sam Carter (Jr.)**	26	Derrick Kindred (So.)
FS	6	**Elisha Olabode (Sr.)**	28	Geoff Hooker (Jr.)
WS	1	**Chris Hackett (So.)**	21	Zach Jackson (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	33	Jaden Oberkrom (So.)	KR	3	Brandon Carter (Jr.)
P	37	Ethan Perry (So.)	PR	20	Deanté Gray (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevone Boykin, 292-167-2,054-10, 15 TDs
Rushing: B.J. Catalon, 123 att., 582 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Brandon Carter, 36 rec., 590 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Joel Hasley, 79
Sacks: Devonte Fields, 10
Interceptions: Jason Verrett, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

NATIONAL FORECAST 18
BIG 12 PREDICTION 3

Texas LONGHORNS

JOHNATHAN GRAY

THE QUOTE

"I don't think they play up to the level of players that they've got. They just aren't the Texas Longhorns they were in the past."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**1**	**Mike Davis (Sr.)**	80	Marcus Johnson (So.)
WR	2	Kendall Sanders (So.)	27	Daje Johnson (So.)
IR	**8**	**Jaxon Shipley (Jr.)**	16	Bryant Jackson (Jr.)
LT	**51**	**Donald Hawkins (Sr.)**		Desmond Harrison (Jr.)
LG	**75**	**Trey Hopkins (Sr.)**	66	Sedrick Flowers (So.)
C	**55**	**Dominic Espinosa (Jr.)**	73	Garrett Porter (Sr.)
RG	**72**	**Mason Walters (Sr.)**	62	Curtis Riser (Fr.)
RT	**78**	**Josh Cochran (Jr.)**	68	Kennedy Estelle (So.)
TE	85	M.J. McFarland (So.)	82	Geoff Swaim (Jr.)
QB	**14**	**David Ash (Jr.)**	6	Case McCoy (Sr.)
RB	32	Johnathan Gray (So.)	28	Malcolm Brown (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	**44**	**Jackson Jeffcoat (Sr.)**	1	Shiro Davis (So.)
DT	**96**	**Chris Whaley (Sr.)**	**99**	**Desmond Jackson (Jr.)**
DT	85	Ashton Dorsey (Sr.)	90	Malcom Brown (So.)
DE	**88**	**Cedric Reed (Jr.)**	92	Reggie Wilson (Sr.)
WLB	3	Jordan Hicks (Jr.)	11	Tevin Jackson (Jr.)
MLB	55	Dalton Santos (So.)	**33**	**Steve Edmond (Jr.)**
SLB	19	Peter Jinkens (So.)	**35**	**Kendall Thompson (Jr.)**
CB	**6**	**Quandre Diggs (Jr.)**	21	Duke Thomas (So.)
CB	**23**	**Carrington Byndom (Sr.)**	29	Sheroid Evans (Jr.)
SS	**17**	**Adrian Phillips (Sr.)**	26	Adrian Colbert (Fr.)
FS	2	Mykkele Thompson (Jr.)	25	Josh Turner (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	23	Nick Rose (So.)	**KR**	21	Duke Thomas (So.)
P	9	Anthony Fera (Sr.)	**PR**	6	Quandre Diggs (Jr

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Ash, 318-214-2,699-8, 19 TDs
Rushing: Johnathan Gray, 149 att., 701 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Jaxon Shipley, 59 rec., 737 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Steve Edmond, 103
Sacks: Jackson Jeffcoat, 4
Interceptions: Quandre Diggs, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Ric Fogel

OFFENSE After losing to Alabama in the BCS national title game after the 2009 regular season, Texas spent most of the next three years trying to build an SEC-style offense around a power running game with co-offensive coordinator Bryan Harsin. Harsin is gone — he's now the head coach at Arkansas State — and so is his offense. Texas is returning to the spread offense that helped the Longhorns reach four BCS bowl games between 2004-09, including a national title in 2005.

Under new play-caller Major Applewhite, the Texas offense will be up-tempo, no-huddle with the ball being snapped every 15 seconds.

The offense seems to suit junior David Ash, the unquestioned starter at quarterback. Ash needs to even out the inconsistency that caused him to be benched in four games last year, including losses to Oklahoma, TCU and Kansas State.

Leading receivers Mike Davis and Jaxon Shipley return, and Davis' ability to stretch the field should help create running room for a trio of strong running backs led by sophomore Johnathan Gray.

All five starters return on the offensive line, a group that helped Texas average 4.6 yards per carry in 2012. The coaches also have big plans for 6'6" tight end M.J. McFarland, who has the speed to be a down-the-field threat.

29

Texas allowed 29 rushing touchdowns in 2012, the most in the Big 12. Only 12 teams nationally allowed more.

DEFENSE The Longhorns' defense made the wrong kind of history last year, giving up more yards (5,244) than any other Texas defense — ever.

The breakdowns seemed to magnify when outside linebacker Jordan Hicks went down with a season-ending hip injury in Game 3. Hicks is back this year and showed in the Spring Game that he may be able to add some serious punch to a defense trying to replace NFL Draft picks Kenny Vaccaro at safety and Alex Okafor at defensive end.

While Hicks and sophomore outside linebacker Peter Jinkens have a chance to be difference-makers, middle linebacker is a huge question mark. Sophomore Dalton Santos appears to have beaten out junior Steve Edmond, who started all but one game last season.

The defensive line has depth, but it needs to be more disruptive, led by senior defensive end Jackson Jeffcoat (the son of former NFL sack artist Jim Jeffcoat), who returns from a ruptured pectoral muscle.

The secondary will desperately miss Vaccaro's leadership and physical play. The emergence of corners Sheroid Evans and Duke Thomas will allow junior Quandre Diggs to replace Vaccaro as the nickel back.

SPECIALISTS When kicker Anthony Fera transferred from Penn State before the 2012 season, he arrived as an awards candidate after making 14-of-17 field goals in 2011. But he also arrived with a groin injury that never seemed to heal. This year, Fera appears to be the favorite to replace punter Alex King, who averaged 45.3 yards per attempt last year. Sophomores Nick Rose and Nick Jordan are the frontrunners to kick field goals, because Fera's recurring groin injury seems to be aggravated by the motion to kick field goals but not by punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Longhorns have more starters back than any team in the Big 12 and have the most experienced quarterback in the league in Ash.

But few are picking Texas to win the title after the Longhorns were blown out 63–21 by an Oklahoma team last season that paled in comparison to some of Bob Stoops' other squads.

Mack Brown said in December 2011 Texas would win a national title in the next "two to three years." That time is now, and for many Texas fans weary of a 22–16 record (11–15 in Big 12 play) the past three years, it's put up or shut up time.

Head Coach: Mack Brown
Record at School: 150-43 (15 years)
Career Record: 236-117-1 (29 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Major Applewhite, Darrell Wyatt
Defensive Coordinator: Manny Diaz
Location: Austin, TX
Stadium: Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (100,119)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-3 (BIG 12)

August		
	31	New Mexico State
September		
	7	at BYU
	14	Ole Miss
	21	Kansas State
October		
	3	at Iowa State
	12	vs. Oklahoma #
	26	at TCU
November		
	2	Kansas
	9	at West Virginia
	16	Oklahoma State
	28	Texas Tech
December		
	7	at Baylor

#Dallas, TX

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 5-4)

Sept.	1	Wyoming	W	37-17
Sept.	8	New Mexico	W	45-0
Sept.	15	at Ole Miss	W	66-31
Sept.	29	at Oklahoma State	W	41-36
Oct.	6	West Virginia	L	45-48
Oct.	13	vs. Oklahoma %	L	21-63
Oct.	20	Baylor	W	56-50
Oct.	27	at Kansas	W	21-17
Nov.	3	at Texas Tech	W	31-22
Nov.	10	Iowa State	W	33-7
Nov.	22	TCU	L	13-20
Dec.	1	at Kansas State	L	24-42
Dec.	29	vs. Oregon State #	W	31-27

%Dallas #Alamo Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Darius James, G, Killeen, TX
2. Kent Perkins, T, Dallas, TX
3. Deoundrei Davis, LB, Cypress, TX
4. Tyrone Swoopes, QB, Whitewright, TX
5. Jake Raulerson, OL, Celina, TX
6. Antwuan Davis, CB, Bastrop, TX
7. Jacorey Warrick, WR, Houston, TX
8. Jake Oliver, WR, Dallas, TX
9. Desmond Harrison, T, Oak Ridge, NC*
10. Rami Hammad, G, Irving, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	35.7 ppg	7	23
Rushing	171.5 ypg	6	53
Passing	263.2 ypg	6	41
Total	434.6 ypg	6	40
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	29.2 ppg	6	73
Rushing	192.2 ypg	8	88
Passing	212.0 ypg	3	36
Total	404.2 ypg	5	67
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+5	+0.38	3	39

Texas Tech
RED RAIDERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 45
BIG 12 PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Kliff Kingsbury
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Sonny Cumbie, Eric Morris
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Mike Smith, Matt Wallerstedt
Location: Lubbock, TX
Stadium: Jones AT&T Stadium (60,454)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-5 (BIG 12)

August		
30	at SMU	
September		
7	Stephen F. Austin	
14	TCU	
21	Texas State	
October		
5	at Kansas	
12	Iowa State	
19	at West Virginia	
26	at Oklahoma	
November		
2	Oklahoma State	
9	Kansas State	
16	vs. Baylor #	
28	at Texas	

#Arlington, TX

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 4-5)

Sept. 1	Northwestern State		W	44-6
Sept. 8	at Texas State		W	58-10
Sept. 15	New Mexico		W	49-14
Sept. 29	at Iowa State		W	24-13
Oct. 6	Oklahoma		L	20-41
Oct. 13	West Virginia		W	49-14
Oct. 20	at TCU	(ot)	W	56-53
Oct. 27	at Kansas State		L	24-55
Nov. 3	Texas		L	22-31
Nov. 10	Kansas	(ot)	W	41-34
Nov. 17	at Oklahoma State		L	21-59
Nov. 24	vs. Baylor %	(ot)	L	45-52
Dec. 28	vs. Minnesota #		W	34-31

%Arlington #Meineke Car Care Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Devin Lauderdale, WR, Houston, TX
2. Davis Webb, QB, Prosper, TX
3. Josh Outlaw, OT, Lithonia, GA
4. Dorian Crawford, DB, San Diego, CA*
5. Dylan Cantrell, WR, Whitehouse, TX
6. Baylon Brown, OL, San Antonio, TX
7. Jacarthy Mack, LB, Lithonia, GA
8. Kahlee Woods, LB, Sherman, TX
9. Gary Moore, ATH, Clarksville, TX
10. Dee Paul, DB, Munday, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	37.5 ppg	6	20
Rushing	139.9 ypg	10	86
Passing	355.9 ypg	1	2
Total	495.9 ypg	5	13
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	7	90
Rushing	175.3 ypg	5	74
Passing	192.0 ypg	1	15
Total	367.3 ypg	2	38
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-13	-1.00	10	106

OFFENSE Sophomore Michael Brewer is expected to be the latest in a string of successful signal-callers at Texas Tech that dates back to Kliff Kingsbury's playing career on the South Plains. Brewer, whose father and grandfather played quarterback at Texas, is no stranger to expectations and should be able to meet the standard of his predecessors at Tech, most recently Seth Doege.

The Red Raiders may lean on a stable of running backs early in the season while Brewer and an inexperienced receiving corps get into gear. The Tech backfield returns three players who have seen significant playing time, led by junior Kenny Williams, who rushed for 824 yards in his first season as the team's feature back. He could become the school's first 1,000-yard rusher in 14 years. DeAndre Washington, who redshirted last season while recovering from a knee injury, and former junior college transfer SaDale Foster are two other options in the backfield.

The Red Raiders' receiving corps is less experienced than it may seem at first glance. Five players return who started at least one game last season, but only two of them — Eric Ward and Jakeem Grant — played in more than seven games in 2012. Ward is the unit's obvious headliner; he caught 82 passes for 1,053 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior and should be a preseason All-Big 12 selection.

359

Texas Tech went almost six full games without forcing a turnover — 359 minutes plus overtime in two games — in the season's second half.

Tech worked with just eight scholarship offensive linemen through the spring and will rely on five signees to solve the depth issues that have lingered since 2011.

DEFENSE Matt Wallerstedt is Tech's fifth defensive coordinator in five years and, like his immediate predecessors, has changed up the team's base defensive scheme — this time from a 4-3 to a 3-4. While the Red Raiders finished the 2012 campaign ranked a respectable 38th nationally in total defense, the team struggled at forcing turnovers and pressuring the quarterback.

Nearly the entire defensive front seven returns, but some of the more athletic defensive ends were transferred to outside linebacker. Experience is an issue in the secondary as plenty of new faces will patrol the defensive backfield this fall.

Last year's nickel back, Tre' Porter, transitioned to safety and is expected to lock down one of the starting spots. Sophomore J.J. Gaines emerged in spring ball and will enter fall camp as the favorite to earn the start at the other safety position. There's also a solid cornerback option in senior Bruce Jones, who started six games last season after transferring in from junior college. The last cornerback position likely won't be filled until fall camp. Several newcomers will be in the mix.

SPECIALISTS No issues here. The Red Raiders return their field goal kicker, punter and primary kickoff returners. Ryan Bustin hit 17-of-24 field goals as a sophomore and made all 59 extra point attempts. Punter Ryan Erxleben averaged 42 yards per punt last season. Grant took over the kickoff return duties late in the season and returned two kicks for a touchdown — one for 99 yards and one for 97 yards — in his last two games.

FINAL ANALYSIS Things changed in Lubbock the night Kingsbury was announced as Texas Tech's new head football coach. With one move, a fan base that had been fractured since the tail end of the Mike Leach era suddenly became united.

But a united fan base doesn't guarantee success. The Red Raiders have some nice pieces, but there might be a few too many questions — Can Brewer shine at quarterback? Can the offensive line replace three starters? Can the secondary hold its own? — for this team to be a significant factor in the Big 12 race in 2013.

ERIC WARD

THE QUOTE

"With Kliff Kingsbury, it will be up-tempo, wide open and as fast as you can go. They'll go up and down the field on people."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**18**	**Eric Ward (Sr.)**	19	Derreck Edwards (So.)
WR	4	Bradley Marquez (Jr.)	2	Reginald Davis (Fr.)
WR	11	Jakeem Grant (So.)	85	Jordan Davis (Jr.)
TE	22	Jace Amaro (Jr.)	86	Peyton Williams (Fr.)
LT	**62**	**Le'Raven Clark (So.)**	67	Matt Wilson (So.)
LG	**72**	**Beau Carpenter (Jr.)**	77	Trey Keenan (Fr.)
C	75	Jared Kaster (So.)	51	Tony Morales (So.)
RG	63	James Polk (Jr.)	56	Alfredo Morales (So.)
RT	73	Rashad Fortenberry (Sr.)	72	Beau Carpenter (Jr.)
QB	16	Michael Brewer (So.)	7	Davis Webb (Fr.)
RB	**34**	**Kenny Williams (Jr.)**	21	DeAndre Washington (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**8**	**Delvon Simmons (Jr.)**	**43**	**Jackson Richards (Jr.)**
DT	**91**	**Kerry Hyder (Sr.)**	96	Dennell Wesley (Sr.)
DE	**54**	**Dartwan Bush (Sr.)**	94	Donte Phillips (So.)
BAN	10	Pete Robertson (So.)	9	Branden Jackson (So.)
MLB	**7**	**Will Smith (Sr.)**	**13**	**Sam Eguavoen (Jr.)**
MLB	25	Blake Dees (Jr.)	27	Zach Winbush (Jr.)
RAID	**1**	**Terrance Bullitt (Sr.)**	20	Chris Payne (Sr.)
CB	24	Bruce Jones (Sr.)	14	La'Darius Newbold (Fr.)
CB	4	Derrick Mays (Sr.)	23	Jeremy Reynolds (So.)
S	**5**	**Tre' Porter (Sr.)**	30	Austin Stewart (Jr.)
S	41	J.J. Gaines (So.)	35	Keenon Ward (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Ryan Bustin (Jr.)	**KR**	11	Jakeem Grant (So.)
P	26	Ryan Erxleben (Sr.)	**PR**	8	SaDale Foster (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Michael Brewer, 48-34-375-0, 4 TDs
Rushing: Kenny Williams, 143 att., 824 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Eric Ward, 82 rec., 1,053 yds., 12 TDs
Tackles: Kerry Hyder, 56
Sacks: Dartwan Bush, 6; Kerry Hyder, 6
Interceptions: Jeremy Reynolds, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Layne Murdoch

NATIONAL FORECAST 56
BIG 12 PREDICTION 8

West Virginia
MOUNTAINEERS

KARL JOSEPH

OFFENSE West Virginia lost more than a chunk of offense when Geno Smith, Tavon Austin and Stedman Bailey moved on to the NFL. That leaves Mountaineers coach Dana Holgorsen scrambling. For 2013, he'll oversee his first true competition at quarterback since his stop as an assistant in Houston in 2008. The prime contenders: junior Paul Millard, redshirt freshman Ford Childress and Florida State transfer Clint Trickett. Childress passes the eye test with a 6'5", 234-pound frame and a sizzling fastball. Millard, 6'2", has been under Holgorsen's watch longer, though, and completed 9-of-19 passes last season for 87 yards and two scores. Trickett played in 17 games over the last two seasons at FSU as EJ Manuel's backup.

West Virginia will still put up numbers in Holgorsen's "Air Raid" offense, but more emphasis might be placed on the running backs until the quarterbacks are settled. Andrew Buie and Dustin Garrison are the top two returnees, but watch for junior college transfer Dreamius Smith, who wowed the coaches in the spring.

9.3

West Virginia allowed 9.3 yards per pass attempt last season, worst in the nation. The Mountaineers ranked 119th in pass efficiency defense.

Also raising eyebrows was junior college transfer Kevin White at receiver. Holgorsen, though, is also looking to incoming freshmen for help to replace Austin and Bailey. New offensive line coach Ron Crook, hired from Stanford, has his work cut out for him. The interior of the line must be rebuilt. And the only sure-fire standout is 6'5", 335-pound left tackle Quinton Spain. Around Spain, though, Crook might have to work some magic.

DEFENSE WVU returns seven starters to its defense, but that might be good news for opponents. While WVU's offense finished last season No. 10 nationally, the defense was on the other end of the spectrum at No. 108.

Before the bowl game, Holgorsen handed control of the defense to Keith Patterson, who installed a two-end, one nose front. Under Patterson, expect the nose guard position to be solid with senior Shaq Rowell and sophomore Christian Brown. At one end, Will Clarke, 6'7", 273, is back after proving he could at times be dominant.

At linebacker, WVU returns sophomore Isaiah Bruce, who was second on the team in tackles. But newcomers like d'Vante Henry and Brandon Golson could help provide a shakeup.

WVU's defensive backs were torched in 2012. In pass defense, the Mountaineers finished 118th. And there's not much reason to expect a vast improvement, especially at cornerback. Safety Karl Joseph, who led the Mountaineers in tackles as a true freshman, will be the foundation for rebuilding the secondary.

SPECIALISTS There's a not a special teams hole to fill. It's a crater. Gone is return specialist extraordinaire Austin, who had a touchdown on both return teams. Cornerback Brodrick Jenkins could handle the punt return duties this season. At kicker, West Virginia is replacing Tyler Bitancurt, who hit 11-of-19 last season, with redshirt freshman Josh Lambert. Holgorsen also signed punter Nick O'Toole from the junior college ranks. He was ranked by one scouting service as the nation's No. 7 punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Early in spring drills, Holgorsen said his team "lost a lot of star power, but we have a lot of hungry kids." It's a good thing. Holgorsen, his players and Mountaineers fans have a lot to chew on. One can always expect offense from Holgorsen. But this might be his toughest challenge in years. Smith, Austin and Bailey rewrote WVU's offensive records. Holgorsen will have to rely not only on a young quarterback, but also young receivers and a rebuilt offensive line. His defense is getting better talent, but not much should be expected there this season. On top of it all, Holgorsen has five new assistants.

THE QUOTE

"I would expect them to get better (on defense). They can't get much worse. They weren't mentally ready to be in shootouts every week."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR		Ronald Carswell (So.)		Shelton Gibson (Fr.)
WR		Mario Alford (Jr.)	10	Jordan Thompson (So.)
WR	84	Kevin White (Jr.)	82	Devonte Mathis (Fr.)
LT	67	**Quinton Spain (Jr.)**	79	Nick Kindler (Sr.)
LG	78	Marquis Lucas (So.)	69	Tony Matteo (Fr.)
C	76	**Pat Eger (Sr.)**		Stone Underwood (Jr.)
RG	64	Mark Glowinski (Jr.)	73	Russell Haughton-James (So.)
RT	62	**Curtis Feigt (Sr.)**	79	Nick Kindler (Sr.)
QB	14	Paul Millard (Jr.)	7	Ford Childress (Fr.)
HB	88	Cody Clay (So.)	89	Will Johnson (Fr.)
RB	28	Dreamius Smith (Jr.)	13	**Andrew Buie (Jr.)**

DEFENSE (7)

DE	98	**Will Clarke (Sr.)**		Dontrill Hyman (Jr.)
NG	90	**Shaq Rowell (Sr.)**	95	Christian Brown (So.)
DE	93	Kyle Rose (So.)	97	Noble Nwachukwu (Fr.)
BUCK		Brandon Golson (Jr.)	17	Dozie Ezemma (Sr.)
SAM	31	**Isaiah Bruce (So.)**	47	**Doug Rigg (Sr.)**
WILL	35	Nick Kwiatkoski (So.)	33	Jared Barber (Jr.)
SPUR		d'Vante Henry (Jr.)	37	Wes Tonkery (Jr.)
CB	7	Nana Kyeremeh (So.)	22	Avery Williams (So.)
CB	23	**Brodrick Jenkins (Sr.)**	41	Ricky Rumph (So.)
SS	25	**Darwin Cook (Sr.)**	26	Travis Bell (Jr.)
FS	8	**Karl Joseph (So.)**	9	K.J. Dillon (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	84	Josh Lambert (Fr.)	KR 29	Dustin Garrison (Jr.)
P		Nick O'Toole (So.)	PR 23	Brodrick Jenkins (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Paul Millard, 19-9-87-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Andrew Buie, 179 att., 851 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Andrew Buie, 28 rec., 318 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Karl Joseph, 104
Sacks: Will Clarke, 1.5; Shaq Petteway, 1.5
Interceptions: Isaiah Bruce, 2; Karl Joseph, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman

Head Coach: Dana Holgorsen
Record at School: 17-9 (2 years)
Career Record: 17-9 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Shannon Dawson
Defensive Coordinator: Keith Patterson
Location: Morgantown, WV
Stadium: Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-6 (BIG 12)

August	
31	William & Mary
September	
7	at Oklahoma
14	Georgia State
21	vs. Maryland #
28	Oklahoma State
October	
5	at Baylor
19	Texas Tech
26	at Kansas State
November	
2	at TCU
9	Texas
16	at Kansas
29	Iowa State

#Baltimore, MD

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-5)

Sept.	1	Marshall		W	69-34
Sept.	15	vs. James Madison %		W	42-12
Sept.	22	Maryland		W	31-21
Sept.	29	Baylor		W	70-63
Oct.	6	at Texas		W	48-45
Oct.	13	at Texas Tech		L	14-49
Oct.	20	Kansas State		L	14-55
Nov.	3	TCU	(ot)	L	38-39
Nov.	10	at Oklahoma State		L	34-55
Nov.	17	Oklahoma		L	49-50
Nov.	23	at Iowa State		W	31-24
Dec.	1	Kansas		W	59-10
Dec.	29	vs. Syracuse #		L	14-38

%Landover #Pinstripe Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shelton Gibson, WR, Cleveland Heights, OH
2. Darrien Howard, LB, Dayton, OH
3. Marcell Lazard, OL, Bloomfield, NJ
4. Tyler Tezeno, OL, Houston, TX
5. Jeremy Tyler, S, Lithonia, GA
6. Brandon Golson, LB, St. Mathews, SC*
7. Dreamius Smith, RB, Wichita, KS*
8. d'Vante Henry, LB, Moore, OK*
9. Kevin White, WR, Macungie, PA*
10. Mario Alford, WR, Greenville, GA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	39.5 ppg	3	9
Rushing	171.9 ypg	5	52
Passing	330.2 ypg	5	10
Total	502.0 ypg	3	10
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	38.1 ppg	10	114
Rushing	159.9 ypg	4	60
Passing	312.5 ypg	9	118
Total	472.5 ypg	8	108
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+7	+0.54	2	33

BIG TEN PREVIEW

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

LEADERS

1. OHIO STATE **BUCKEYES** 13-0, 8-0 BIG TEN
2. WISCONSIN **BADGERS** 9-3, 6-2 BIG TEN
3. PENN STATE **NITTANY LIONS** 8-4, 4-4 BIG TEN
4. INDIANA **HOOSIERS** 6-6, 3-5 BIG TEN
5. PURDUE **BOILERMAKERS** 4-8, 2-6 BIG TEN
6. ILLINOIS **FIGHTING ILLINI** 4-8, 1-7 BIG TEN

LEGENDS

1. MICHIGAN **WOLVERINES** 10-3, 6-2 BIG TEN
2. NEBRASKA **CORNHUSKERS** 9-3, 6-2 BIG TEN
3. NORTHWESTERN **WILDCATS** 9-3, 5-3 BIG TEN
4. MICHIGAN STATE **SPARTANS** 7-5, 4-4 BIG TEN
5. MINNESOTA **GOLDEN GOPHERS** 6-6, 2-6 BIG TEN
6. IOWA **HAWKEYES** 4-8, 1-7 BIG TEN

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: OHIO STATE OVER MICHIGAN

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Ohio State
2. Michigan
3. Nebraska
4. Penn State
5. Michigan State
6. Wisconsin
7. Indiana
8. Illinois
9. Northwestern
10. Iowa
11. Purdue
12. Minnesota

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	10	9	11	12	12	8	12
INDIANA	5	8	1	5	11	12	11
IOWA	12	7	10	9	8	3	9
MICHIGAN	3	6	9	7	5	5	6
MICHIGAN STATE	7	11	5	3	3	1	2
MINNESOTA	9	10	12	10	9	11	8
NEBRASKA	2	3	2	2	7	9	3
NORTHWESTERN	4	4	6	8	6	6	4
OHIO STATE	1	2	4	1	1	4	1
PENN STATE	8	5	3	4	2	7	5
PURDUE	11	12	7	11	10	10	7
WISCONSIN	6	1	8	6	4	2	10

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BRAXTON MILLER	6-2	215	Jr.	Ohio State
RB	AMEER ABDULLAH	5-9	190	Jr.	Nebraska
RB	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern
WR	JARED ABBREDERIS	6-2	188	Sr.	Wisconsin
WR	ALLEN ROBINSON	6-3	204	Jr.	Penn State
TE	KYLE CARTER	6-3	240	So.	Penn State
C	COREY LINSLEY	6-3	297	Sr.	Ohio State
G	SPENCER LONG	6-4	315	Sr.	Nebraska
G	ANDREW NORWELL	6-6	319	Sr.	Ohio State
T	TAYLOR LEWAN	6-8	308	Sr.	Michigan
T	JACK MEWHORT	6-7	308	Sr.	Ohio State

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DEION BARNES	6-4	244	So.	Penn State
DE	NOAH SPENCE	6-3	247	So.	Ohio State
DT	BEAU ALLEN	6-3	333	Sr.	Wisconsin
DT	RA'SHEDE HAGEMAN	6-6	311	Sr.	Minnesota
LB	CHRIS BORLAND	5-11	248	Sr.	Wisconsin
LB	MAX BULLOUGH	6-3	242	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	RYAN SHAZIER	6-2	222	Jr.	Ohio State
CB	DARQUEZE DENNARD	5-11	188	Sr.	Michigan State
CB	BRADLEY ROBY	5-11	192	Jr.	Ohio State
S	IBRAHEIM CAMPBELL	5-11	205	Jr.	Northwestern
S	ISAIAH LEWIS	5-10	210	Sr.	Michigan State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JEFF BUDZIEN	5-11	165	Sr.	Northwestern
P	MIKE SADLER	6-0	185	Jr.	Michigan State
KR	JORDAN COTTON	6-1	185	Sr.	Iowa
PR	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TAYLOR MARTINEZ	6-1	210	Sr.	Nebraska
RB	MELVIN GORDON	6-1	203	So.	Wisconsin
RB	CARLOS HYDE	6-0	242	Sr.	Ohio State
WR	KENNY BELL	6-1	185	Jr.	Nebraska
WR	CODY LATIMER	6-3	215	Jr.	Indiana
TE	JACOB PEDERSEN	6-4	241	Sr.	Wisconsin
C	BRANDON VITABILE	6-3	300	Jr.	Northwestern
G	RYAN GROY	6-5	317	Sr.	Wisconsin
G	JOHN URSCHEL	6-3	300	Sr.	Penn State
T	FOU FONOTI	6-4	298	Sr.	Michigan State
T	JEREMIAH SIRLES	6-6	310	Sr.	Nebraska

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	TYLER SCOTT	6-4	265	Sr.	Northwestern
DE	ADOLPHUS WASHINGTON	6-3	292	So.	Ohio State
DT	BRUCE GASTON	6-2	303	Sr.	Purdue
DT	DAQUAN JONES	6-3	333	Sr.	Penn State
LB	DENICOS ALLEN	5-11	215	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	JAMES MORRIS	6-2	230	Sr.	Iowa
LB	DAMIEN PROBY	6-0	235	Sr.	Northwestern
CB	RICARDO ALLEN	5-9	186	Sr.	Purdue
CB	NICK VANHOOSE	6-0	185	So.	Northwestern
S	C.J. BARNETT	6-1	203	Sr.	Ohio State
S	CHRISTIAN BRYANT	5-10	192	Sr.	Ohio State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MIKE MEYER	6-2	185	Sr.	Iowa
P	CODY WEBSTER	6-1	210	Sr.	Purdue
KR	DENNIS NORFLEET	5-7	168	So.	Michigan
PR	JARED ABBREDERIS	6-2	188	Sr.	Wisconsin

Joe Robbins

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ILLINOIS

FIGHTING ILLINI

NATIONAL FORECAST **86**

BIG TEN LEADERS PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Tim Beckman
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 23-26 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Cubit
Defensive Coordinator: Tim Banks
Champaign, IL
Memorial Stadium (60,670)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	Southern Illinois
September	
7	Cincinnati
14	vs. Washington #
28	Miami (Ohio)
October	
5	at Nebraska
19	Wisconsin
26	Michigan State
November	
2	at Penn State
9	at Indiana
16	Ohio State
23	at Purdue
30	Northwestern

#Chicago, IL

2012 RESULTS (2-10, 0-8)

Sept.	1	Western Michigan	W	24-7
Sept.	8	at Arizona State	L	14-45
Sept.	15	Charleston Southern	W	44-0
Sept.	22	Louisiana Tech	L	24-52
Sept.	29	Penn State	L	7-35
Oct.	6	at Wisconsin	L	14-31
Oct.	13	at Michigan	L	0-45
Oct.	27	Indiana	L	17-31
Nov.	3	at Ohio State	L	22-52
Nov.	10	Minnesota	L	3-17
Nov.	17	Purdue	L	17-20
Nov.	24	at Northwestern	L	14-50

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Aaron Bailey, QB, Bolingbrook, IL
2. Caleb Day, DB, Hilliard, OH
3. Paul James, DE, Miami, FL
4. Martize Barr, WR, Washington, DC*
5. Abe Cajuste, DL, Miami, FL*
6. Darius Mosely, DB, O'Fallon, IL
7. Kendrick Foster, RB, Peoria, IL
8. Dillan Cazley, DB, Charleston, IL
9. Bryce Douglas, DT, Plainfield, IL
10. Dallas Hinkhouse, OL, Clive, IA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	16.7 ppg	12	119
Rushing	127.8 ypg	11	97
Passing	168.8 ypg	11	107
Total	296.7 ypg	12	119
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	32.1 ppg	11	93
Rushing	193.9 ypg	11	95
Passing	193.7 ypg	6	19
Total	387.6 ypg	10	53
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-12	-1.00	12	106

OFFENSE Illinois ranked last in the Big Ten in every major offensive category — which explains the 0–8 finish, also good for last place. The two-coordinator system has been abandoned, with former Western Michigan coach Bill Cubit taking charge of the offense. He's got an experienced player to lead his unit.

Entering his final season as a starter, Nathan Scheelhaase ranks sixth on the school's career passing list and fifth in total offense. He needs 3,504 yards in 2013 to pass Juice Williams at the top of the total offense list. Coming off his least productive year, Scheelhaase spent the spring embracing Cubit's offense. Changing systems is nothing new for the Kansas City, Mo., product, who is working on his fourth offense in five years at Illinois.

The Illinois coaches will tell you that the strength of offense is in the backfield. By a wide margin. Donovonn Young led the team with 571 yards in 2012. He showed good hands out of the backfield, catching a team-high 38 passes. Josh Ferguson was second on the team in rushing with 312 yards and fourth on the team with 29 receptions. Sophomore Dami Ayoola, the top recruit in the 2012 class, had a couple of highlight-reel plays and is looking to share more of the carries.

There are multiple candidates to be Scheelhaase's go-to receiver, most notably seniors Ryan Lankford and Spencer Harris, who were second and fifth on the team, respectively, in receptions in 2012.

6

Illinois had only six offensive plays that went for 30-plus yards in 2012, the fewest in the nation. Baylor led college football with 57 such plays.

The trouble for the Big Ten's worst offense in 2012 started up front. Only nine schools nationally gave up more sacks than the Illini (39). Despite the negative numbers, Cubit sees potential among the returning linemen. The Illinois coaches consider sophomore guard Ted Karras a potential leader of the group.

DEFENSE No position on the team was hit harder than the defensive line, which lost starters to the NFL. That leaves end Tim Kynard as the lone experienced hand. Youth will be served at the two tackle spots, where sophomore Teko Powell and redshirt freshman Vontrell Williams are expected to start.

Coach Tim Beckman thought Mason Monheim would play as a freshman. He just didn't realize how much. By the time Monheim's rookie season ended, the Ohio native led the team in tackles (86) and potential. Leadership comes from senior Jonathan Brown, who missed the final three games of 2012 with an injury.

In the secondary, three of the four starters will be new, including both corners. Sophomores Eaton Spence and V'Angelo Bentley are the replacements. The lone returning starter is safety Earnest Thomas. The other safety spot likely will go to junior college transfer Zane Petty.

SPECIALISTS Sophomore Taylor Zalewski hit 4-of-7 field goals in 2012. Just as important to Beckman and his staff, he booted 23-of-43 kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks. With a struggling offense, junior punter Justin DuVernois was kept busy throughout the season. The Floridian helped Illinois finish 23rd nationally in net punting, an area that had been a problem in recent years.

FINAL ANALYSIS Beckman inherited a team that won back-to-back bowl games for the first time in school history. He went 2–10. In the "win now" age, some fans actually wanted Beckman dismissed after one season. The school leaders didn't listen. To limit the negative talk, Beckman's second team will need to show improvement. Changes to the staff should provide a boost, especially on offense with the addition of Cubit. Beckman also added immediate help with 10 mid-year enrollees, five from the junior college ranks. While a bowl game is always the goal, four wins is a more realistic expectation as Beckman tries to rebuild the program.

NATHAN SCHEELHAASE

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"They didn't really have anything to hang their hat on offensively or defensively. They struggled in a lot of areas."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	84	Justin Hardee (So.)	7	Martize Barr (Jr.)
WR	**12**	**Ryan Lankford (Sr.)**	**15**	**Darius Millines (Sr.)**
WR	**80**	**Spencer Harris (Sr.)**	8	Miles Osei (Sr.)
LT	**68**	**Simon Cvijanovic (Jr.)**	72	Dallas Hinkhouse (Jr.)
LG	**69**	**Ted Karras (So.)**	71	Joe Spencer (Fr.)
C	52	Alex Hill (Jr.)	67	Jake Feldmeyer (Sr.)
RG	**74**	**Michael Heitz (Jr.)**	60	Tony Durkin (So.)
RT	70	Corey Lewis (Sr.)	66	Scott McDowell (So.)
TE	3	Jon Davis (Jr.)	11	Matt LaCosse (Jr.)
QB	**2**	**Nathan Scheelhaase (Sr.)**	4	Reilly O'Toole (Jr.)
RB	**5**	**Donovonn Young (Jr.)**	6	Josh Ferguson (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	59	Tim Kynard (Sr.)	92	Abe Cajuste (Jr.)
DT	93	Teko Powell (So.)	95	Jake Howe (Jr.)
DT	97	Vontrell Williams (Fr.)	44	Austin Teitsma (Jr.)
DE	6	Darrius Caldwell (So.)	30	Houston Bates (Jr.)
LB	**43**	**Mason Monheim (So.)**	42	Ralph Cooper (Jr.)
LB	**45**	**Jonathan Brown (Sr.)**	34	Mike Svetina (So.)
LB	12	Eric Finney (So.)	10	B.J. Bello (Fr.)
CB	2	V'Angelo Bentley (So.)	11	Jevaris Little (Fr.)
CB	27	Eaton Spence (So.)	24	Darius Mosely (Fr.)
SS	21	Zane Petty (Jr.)	3	Taylor Barton (Fr.)
FS	**9**	**Earnest Thomas (Jr.)**	31	Nick North (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Taylor Zalewski (So.)	KR	6	Josh Ferguson (So.)
P	18	Justin DuVernois (Jr.)	PR	7	Martize Barr (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nathan Scheelhaase, 246-149-1,361-8, 4 TDs
Rushing: Donovonn Young, 131 att., 571 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Donovonn Young, 38 rec., 172 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Mason Monheim, 86
Sacks: Jonathan Brown, 2.5
Interceptions: Steve Hull, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **59**

BIG TEN LEADERS PREDICTION **4**

Indiana HOOSIERS

STEPHEN HOUSTON

THE QUOTE

"Although they showed flashes, they didn't have the running game to help the quarterback all the time."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	1	**Shane Wynn (Jr.)**	15	Isaiah Roundtree (Jr.)
WR	3	**Cody Latimer (Jr.)**	81	Duwyce Wilson (Sr.)
WR	13	**Kofi Hughes (Sr.)**	14	Nick Stoner (Jr.)
LT	78	**Jason Spriggs (So.)**	62	Ralston Evans (So.)
LG	73	Bernard Taylor (Jr.)	68	David Kaminski (So.)
C	64	**Collin Rahrig (Jr.)**	50	Jake Reed (So.)
RG	67	**Dan Feeney (So.)**	70	Jacob Bailey (Fr.)
RT	59	**Peyton Eckert (Jr.)**	77	Dimitric Camiel (Fr.)
TE	83	**Ted Bolser (Sr.)**	88	Anthony Corsaro (So.)
QB	5	Tre Roberson (So.)	2	**Cam Coffman (Jr.)**
RB	12	**Stephen Houston (Sr.)**	6	Tevin Coleman (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	25	**Ryan Phillis (Jr.)**	95	Bobby Richardson (Jr.)
DT	99	Adarius Rayner (So.)	93	Ralphael Green (Fr.)
DT	69	Alex Todd (So.)	97	Jordan Heiderman (Jr.)
DE	33	**Zack Shaw (So.)**	56	Nick Mangieri (So.)
OLB	49	**Griffen Dahlstrom (Sr.)**	4	Flo Hardin (Jr.)
MLB	42	**David Cooper (Jr.)**	2	T.J. Simmons (Fr.)
OLB	47	Chase Hoobler (Jr.)	27	Steven Funderburk (Jr.)
CB	28	**Antonio Marshall (Sr.)**	22	Kenny Mullen (Jr.)
CB	17	Michael Hunter (So.)	19	Ryan Thompson (Sr.)
SS	36	Tim Bennett (Jr.)	37	**Mark Murphy (Jr.)**
FS	9	**Greg Heban (Sr.)**	43	Brandon Grubbe (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Mitch Ewald (Sr.)	KR	6	Tevin Coleman (So.)
P	36	Erich Toth (So.)	PR	1	Shane Wynn (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cameron Coffman, 407-247-2,734-11, 15 TDs

Rushing: Stephen Houston, 161 att., 749 yds., 12 TDs

Receiving: Shane Wynn, 68 rec., 660 yds, 6 TDs

Tackles: Greg Heban, 91

Sacks: David Cooper, 3; Ryan Phillis, 3

Interceptions: Greg Heban, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brian Ebner

OFFENSE Kevin Wilson arrived at Indiana before the 2011 season with credentials as an offensive guru. Big Ten defensive coordinators will testify that isn't hype. Even after losing quarterback Tre Roberson to a broken leg in Game 2, IU still finished first in the Big Ten in passing offense and second in total offense.

Most of the essential pieces return from that group, fueling discussion that the Hoosiers will be able ring up jumbo numbers again. Roberson returned from his injury to play in the Spring Game, and his ability to scramble separates him from Cam Coffman and Nate Sudfeld. But those two were effective as a tandem last season because of their passing accuracy. Sudfeld had only one interception (and seven touchdowns) in 82 attempts as a true freshman, and Wilson will not make a decision on the starter until fall camp.

The Hoosiers are also building depth at running back. Stephen Houston and Tevin Coleman are full-sized backs who have shown they can take on linebackers. D'Angelo Roberts crackles with the speed to slip outside. Receiver is another strength for IU. Shane Wynn is a tiny burner who was named the top player in the Spring Game. Kofi Hughes excels in the middle of the field, and tight end Ted Bolser is a large target with dependable hands.

5.01

Indiana ranked last in the Big Ten and tied for 107th in the nation by allowing an average of 5.01 yards per rush in 2012.

Line play is always an issue at Indiana, but Wilson should finally benefit from the growing pains of the last two seasons because four starters return, led by guard Dan Feeney and tackle Jason Spriggs, starters as true freshmen.

DEFENSE Indiana needs to get bigger. And faster. And stronger. And quickly. The Hoosiers were last in the Big Ten in rushing, total and scoring defense. Power teams like Wisconsin, Ohio State and Penn State simply lined up and rolled. IU allowed an average of more than 54 points in its last three games — and its top two defensive tackles are gone.

Look for a major youth movement. Indiana celebrated commitments from three 4-star prospects from Indianapolis, players who decommitted from other BCS schools — tackle Darius Latham (Wisconsin), end David Kenney (Iowa) and cornerback Antonio Allen (Ole Miss). Wilson also looked for help from two junior college transfers who enrolled for the spring semester.

Playing time is not guaranteed to anybody but safety Greg Heban and linebacker David Cooper, who return as the top tacklers. Zack Shaw is expected to help the pass rush by moving from linebacker to defensive end.

SPECIALISTS The Hoosiers don't play with a large margin for error so they can't continue to rank 56th nationally in kickoff returns and 92nd in punt returns. Wynn and Coleman can do better with kickoffs, and Wynn should improve the punt return production. Mitch Ewald ranks as the most accurate placekicker in IU history.

FINAL ANALYSIS Wilson is tired of merely coming close and knows that this is the season that the Hoosiers should at least enjoy bowl-eligibility. The schedule is loaded with eight home games, and Indiana does not play away from Memorial Stadium until Oct. 12. Wilson and his staff recruited the highest-ranked class in IU history, packing it with the speed and size that his defense has lacked to stop the run.

But winning with freshmen is difficult in the Big Ten, so offense will remain Indiana's calling card for at least one more season. Indiana's best offensive players — Roberson, Houston, Bolser, Hughes — are starting their third season in Wilson's high-tempo system, mastering the necessary deceptions. If the defense can make modest improvement, Indiana could score its way to six victories.

Head Coach: Kevin Wilson
Record at School: 5-19 (2 years)
Career Record: 5-19 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Seth Littrell
Co-Defensive Coordinators: William Inge, Doug Mallory
Bloomington, IN
Memorial Stadium (52,929)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5

August	
29	Indiana State
September	
7	Navy
14	Bowling Green
21	Missouri
October	
5	Penn State
12	at Michigan State
19	at Michigan
November	
2	Minnesota
9	Illinois
16	at Wisconsin
23	at Ohio State
30	Purdue

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Sept.	1	Indiana State	W	24-17
Sept.	8	at Massachusetts	W	45-6
Sept.	15	Ball State	L	39-41
Sept.	29	at Northwestern	L	29-44
Oct.	6	Michigan State	L	27-31
Oct.	13	Ohio State	L	49-52
Oct.	20	at Navy	L	30-31
Oct.	27	at Illinois	W	31-17
Nov.	3	Iowa	W	24-21
Nov.	10	Wisconsin	L	14-62
Nov.	17	at Penn State	L	22-45
Nov.	24	at Purdue	L	35-56

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Darius Latham, DT, Indianapolis, IN
2. Antonio Allen, DB, Indianapolis, IN
3. Taj Williams, WR, Tallahassee, FL
4. David Kenney, DE, Indianapolis, IN
5. Rashard Fant, DB, Atlanta, GA
6. Maurice Swain, OT, LaGrange, GA
7. Danny Friend, TE, Morris, IL
8. Daryl Chestnut, RB, Miami, FL
9. Chase Dutra, ATH, Brownsburg, IN
10. T.J. Simmons, LB, Lakeland, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	30.8 ppg	4	51
Rushing	130.8 ypg	10	94
Passing	311.2 ypg	1	17
Total	442.0 ypg	2	34
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	35.3 ppg	12	101
Rushing	231.3 ypg	12	116
Passing	232.2 ypg	9	60
Total	463.5 ypg	12	103
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-3	-0.25	9	78

Ohio State BUCKEYES

NATIONAL FORECAST 2
BIG TEN LEADERS PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Urban Meyer
Record at School: 12-0 (1 year)
Career Record: 116-23 (11 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Tom Herman, Ed Warinner
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Luke Fickell, Everett Withers
Columbus, OH
Ohio Stadium (102,329)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 13-0, 8-0 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	Buffalo
September	
7	San Diego State
14	at California
21	Florida A&M
28	Wisconsin
October	
5	at Northwestern
19	Iowa
26	Penn State
November	
2	at Purdue
16	at Illinois
23	Indiana
30	at Michigan

2012 RESULTS (12-0, 8-0)

Sept.	1	Miami (Ohio)	W	56–10
Sept.	8	UCF	W	31–16
Sept.	15	California	W	35–28
Sept.	22	UAB	W	29–15
Sept.	29	at Michigan State	W	17–16
Oct.	6	Nebraska	W	63–38
Oct.	13	at Indiana	W	52–49
Oct.	20	Purdue	(ot) W	29–22
Oct.	27	at Penn State	W	35–23
Nov.	3	Illinois	W	52–22
Nov.	17	at Wisconsin	(ot) W	21–14
Nov.	24	Michigan	W	26–21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Vonn Bell, S, Rossville, GA
2. Jalin Marshall, WR, Middletown, OH
3. Joey Bosa, DE, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
4. Eli Apple, CB, Voorhees, NJ
5. Mike Mitchell, OLB, Plano, TX
6. Cam Burrows, CB, Trotwood, OH
7. Ezekiel Elliott, RB, St. Louis, MO
8. Dontre Wilson, ATH, DeSoto, TX
9. Evan Lisle, T, Centerville, OH
10. Marcus Baugh, TE, Riverside, CA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	37.2 ppg	1	21
Rushing	242.3 ypg	2	10
Passing	181.5 ypg	8	101
Total	423.8 ypg	3	47
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.8 ppg	6	31
Rushing	116.1 ypg	2	14
Passing	243.5 ypg	11	76
Total	359.6 ypg	6	34
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+3	+0.25	4	46

OFFENSE Urban Meyer took over a program coming off of a 6–7 record — its first losing season since 1988 — and saddled by NCAA sanctions. But he found a winning formula by allowing Braxton Miller to throw the ball downfield enough to keep defenses honest and then carry the day with his feet. Miller scooted for more than 1,200 yards and 13 rushing touchdowns, and OSU needed most of them with the defense struggling against spread teams.

This year, Miller should be able to cede more of the running onus to a deep and talented backfield led by senior Carlos Hyde, who has designs on becoming the first running back to reach the 1,000-yard plateau under Meyer. Hyde will get a lot of push from Rod Smith, Bri'onte Dunn, Warren Ball and even incoming freshman Ezekiel Elliott.

Senior Jordan Hall is back from injury to fulfill the hybrid duties as a back who can split out and hurt defenses as a receiver. Corey "Philly" Brown and Devin Smith will lead a corps of wideouts who are vastly improved in all areas. Jake Stoneburner is out of eligibility, but the tight end spot is just fine with the tandem of Jeff Heuerman and Nick Vannett in tow.

And perhaps most important, the offensive line is as sturdy as it's been in years with four starters returning and hulking Taylor Decker poised to take over at right tackle.

6

Six Ohio State football teams have gone unbeaten and untied in program history. The 2012 Buckeyes joined the teams from 1916, 1944, 1954, 1968 and 2002.

DEFENSE Here's where the "if" game begins for the Buckeyes.

Ryan Shazier is coming off of a 115-tackle season and is ready to hunt down ball-carriers once again. The two players expected to line up with him as starting linebackers, middle man Curtis Grant and strong-sider Joshua Perry, are physical specimens with playmaking ability.

The secondary is led by superstar corner Bradley Roby and a pair of returning starters at safety in seniors Christian Bryant and C.J. Barnett. The coaches also are enthused with the elevation of Corey "Pitt" Brown and redshirt freshman Tyvis Powell, either of whom can play nickel or safety. Doran Grant should be solid at the other corner spot.

However, Curtis Grant and Perry are far from proven, and the front line is comprised of a pool of youngsters who won't have the likes of John Simon and Johnathan Hankins around anymore to show them the ropes. Noah Spence and Adolphus Washington are going to have to approach their vast potential quickly, and defensive breakdowns in the back seven have to cease if this team is to take down the Big Ten.

SPECIALISTS Drew Basil is back at placekicker after a somewhat uneventful 2012 season. With the coaches seeking big plays, he was called upon to attempt just 11 field goals. Still, he'll stay busy as he also boots kickoffs and has been handed the added chore of punter. Cover teams should be solid with so many able bodies, and the return game could be impactful with Smith, Hall and Philly Brown finding creases.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Buckeyes suddenly have a potent offense with experience up front, a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate at quarterback and weapons that can populate open areas of the field. The defense, however, requires some development up front and steadier tackling on the back end.

Fortunately for OSU, four of the first five games are at home, and the pieces should be in place by the time the team heads into a crucial November that includes road trips to three Big Ten schools.

Ohio State looks formidable on paper, and the hunger to return to a high-profile bowl is evident, but the coaches are concerned that too much leadership has walked out the door. Still, don't be surprised if this team is playing for a national title.

BRAXTON MILLER

THE QUOTE

"They've gotten more athletic and faster than from a few years ago. Just a really good team across the board."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	10	**Philly Brown (Sr.)**	6	Evan Spencer (Jr.)
WR	9	**Devin Smith (Jr.)**	83	Michael Thomas (So.)
ATH	7	Jordan Hall (Sr.)		Dontre Wilson (Fr.)
LT	74	**Jack Mewhort (Sr.)**	76	Darryl Baldwin (Jr.)
LG	78	**Andrew Norwell (Sr.)**	65	Pat Elflein (Fr.)
C	71	**Corey Linsley (Sr.)**	50	Jacoby Boren (So.)
RG	79	**Marcus Hall (Sr.)**	55	Tommy Brown (So.)
RT	68	Taylor Decker (So.)	57	Chase Farris (So.)
TE	86	**Jeff Heuerman (Jr.)**	81	Nick Vannett (So.)
QB	5	**Braxton Miller (Jr.)**	13	Kenny Guiton (Sr.)
RB	34	**Carlos Hyde (Sr.)**	2	Rod Smith (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	8	Noah Spence (So.)	88	Steve Miller (Jr.)
NT	51	Joel Hale (Jr.)	72	Chris Carter (So.)
DT	63	Michael Bennett (Jr.)	90	Tommy Schutt (So.)
DE	92	Adolphus Washington (So.)		Joey Bosa (Fr.)
WLB	10	**Ryan Shazier (Jr.)**	21	David Perkins (So.)
MLB	14	Curtis Grant (Jr.)	5	Camren Williams (So.)
SLB	37	Joshua Perry (So.)		Mike Mitchell (Fr.)
CB	1	**Bradley Roby (Jr.)**	23	Tyvis Powell (Fr.)
CB	12	Doran Grant (Jr.)	16	Cam Burrows (Fr.)
SS	4	**C.J. Barnett (Sr.)**	3	Corey Brown (Sr.)
FS	2	**Christian Bryant (Sr.)**		Vonn Bell (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	24	Drew Basil (Sr.)	KR	9	Devin Smith (Jr.)
P	24	Drew Basil (Sr.)	PR	7	Jordan Hall (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Braxton Miller, 254-148-2,039-6, 15 TDs
Rushing: Braxton Miller, 227 att., 1,271 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Philly Brown, 60 rec., 669 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Ryan Shazier, 115
Sacks: Ryan Shazier, 5
Interceptions: Bradley Roby, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Joe Robbins

NATIONAL FORECAST **39**

BIG TEN LEADERS PREDICTION **3**

Penn State

NITTANY LIONS

ALLEN ROBINSON

THE QUOTE

"They were very physical, and bigger than I thought they would be. Obviously their strength was their front seven."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**8**	**Allen Robinson (Jr.)**	7	Eugene Lewis (Fr.)
WR	**85**	**B. Moseby-Felder (Sr.)**	15	Alex Kenney (Jr.)
LT	**76**	**Donovan Smith (So.)**	77	Garry Gilliam (Jr.)
LG	**65**	**Miles Dieffenbach (Jr.)**	66	Angelo Mangiro (So.)
C	60	Ty Howle (Sr.)	55	Wendy Laurent (Fr.)
RG	**64**	**John Urschel (Sr.)**	56	Anthony Alosi (So.)
RT	58	Adam Gress (Sr.)	75	Eric Shrive (Sr.)
TE	18	Jesse James (So.)	84	Matt Lehman (Sr.)
TE	87	Kyle Carter (So.)	11	Brent Wilkerson (Fr.)
QB		Christian Hackenberg (Fr.)	5	Tyler Ferguson (So.)
RB	28	Zach Zwinak (Jr.)	1	Bill Belton (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**18**	**Deion Barnes (So.)**	31	Brad Bars (Jr.)
DT	99	Austin Johnson (Fr.)	84	Kyle Baublitz (Jr.)
DT	**91**	**DaQuan Jones (Sr.)**	70	Nate Cadogan (Sr.)
DE	86	C.J. Olaniyan (Jr.)	98	Anthony Zettel (So.)
OLB	43	Mike Hull (Jr.)	8	Gary Wooten (Fr.)
ILB	**40**	**Glenn Carson (Sr.)**	30	Charles Idemudia (Fr.)
OLB	5	Nyeem Wartman (Fr.)	38	Ben Kline (So.)
CB	9	Jordan Lucas (So.)	3	Da'Quan Davis (So.)
CB	**4**	**Adrian Amos (Jr.)**	33	Trevor Williams (So.)
SS	**7**	**S. Obeng-Agyapong (Sr.)**	23	Ryan Keiser (Jr.)
FS	**10**	**Malcolm Willis (Sr.)**	6	Malik Golden (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Sam Ficken (Jr.)	**KR** 1	Bill Belton (Jr.)
P	45	Alex Butterworth (Sr.)	**PR** 39	Jesse Della Valle (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None

Rushing: Zach Zwinak, 203 att., 1,000 yds., 6 TDs

Receiving: Allen Robinson, 77 rec., 1,013 yds., 11 TDs

Tackles: Glenn Carson, 85

Sacks: Deion Barnes, 6

Interceptions: Adrian Amos, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

OFFENSE The Nittany Lions need a quarterback after losing Matt McGloin following a highly productive senior season. There are two contenders for the job, a lightly recruited junior college transfer (Tyler Ferguson) and a true freshman who won't arrive on campus until the summer (Christian Hackenberg). Starting a true freshman is never ideal, but Hackenberg, one of the top recruits in the nation, will be given every opportunity to win the job.

If coach Bill O'Brien is able to find a reliable passer, Penn State should be in good shape. Running back Zach Zwinak was a pleasant surprise last season, leading the team in rushing with 1,000 yards. The Lions also return Bill Belton in the backfield and figure to get a boost from the debut of redshirt freshman Akeel Lynch. With his 4.4-second 40-yard speed, Lynch could give Penn State's running game the breakaway threat it lacked last year.

The Lions will have five of their top wideouts from last season, including Big Ten Receiver of the Year Allen Robinson. And they are just as deep at tight end, with Kyle Carter, Matt Lehman and Jesse James back. Carter was a revelation last year, catching 36 passes for 453 yards as a redshirt freshman.

5

Despite the NCAA sanctions, Penn State ranked fifth in the nation in attendance last season, averaging 96,730 per game at Beaver Stadium.

Penn State has the makings of a solid offensive front, with guards John Urschel and Miles Dieffenbach and left tackle Donovan Smith all set to return. Urschel was a first-team All-Big Ten honoree as a junior, while Smith, a 6'5", 327-pound sophomore, is a potentially dominant tackle.

DEFENSE Veteran assistant coach Larry Johnson almost always finds a way to put a solid defensive front on the field. This year, he'll need tackles DaQuan Jones and Austin Johnson to step up and Deion Barnes to continue the rapid ascent that began last season when he made six sacks and finished as Big Ten Freshman of the Year.

In the secondary, Penn State will be more experienced than last season, with junior cornerback Adrian Amos and senior safeties Stephen Obeng-Agyapong and Malcolm Willis all set to return. However, the defensive backs will need to be more opportunistic than last year when they combined to intercept only three passes.

The biggest concerns on defense are at linebacker, where depth is lacking following the graduation of Michael Mauti and Gerald Hodges. Junior outside linebacker Mike Hull is a rising star after finishing last season with 58 tackles, four sacks, two fumble recoveries, a blocked punt and an interception. In the middle, dependable senior Glenn Carson is the team's top returning tackler with 85 stops last season.

SPECIALISTS After a rough start, Sam Ficken ended his sophomore season by making his last 10 field goal attempts. But he might have to fight off incoming walk-on Chris Gulla to keep his job. Gulla was rated 19th in the nation by one recruiting service and may get a chance to challenge both Ficken and starting punter Alex Butterworth. The Lions are desperate for some big plays in the return game. It wouldn't be surprising to see a freshman or two get a tryout on punts and/or kickoffs.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Nittany Lions have the potential to score a lot of points if they're able to find a reliable quarterback. They averaged just under 30 points per game last season, and that was while everyone was adapting to a radically new offense. This year, the schemes are familiar and players have adjusted to strength coach Craig Fitzgerald's modernized weight program, so optimism is running high. That said, Penn State may need all the points the offense can muster. An injury or two at linebacker, where depth is precariously low, could create major problems.

Head Coach: Bill O'Brien
Record at School: 8-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 8-4 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill O'Brien
Defensive Coordinator: John Butler
University Park, PA
Beaver Stadium (106,572)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	vs. Syracuse #
September	
7	Eastern Michigan
14	UCF
21	Kent State
5	at Indiana
12	Michigan
26	at Ohio State
November	
2	Illinois
9	at Minnesota
16	Purdue
23	Nebraska
30	at Wisconsin

#East Rutherford, NJ

2012 RESULTS (8-4, 6-2)

Sept.	1	Ohio		L	14-24
Sept.	8	at Virginia		L	16-17
Sept.	15	Navy		W	35-7
Sept.	22	Temple		W	24-13
Sept.	29	at Illinois		W	35-7
Oct.	6	Northwestern		W	39-28
Oct.	20	at Iowa		W	38-14
Oct.	27	Ohio State		L	23-35
Nov.	3	at Purdue		W	34-9
Nov.	10	at Nebraska		L	23-32
Nov.	17	Indiana		W	45-22
Nov.	24	Wisconsin	(ot)	W	24-21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Christian Hackenberg, QB, Palmyra, VA
2. Adam Breneman, TE, Camp Hill, PA
3. Brendan Mahon, OL, Randolph, NJ
4. Garrett Sickels, DE, Little Silver, NJ
5. Brandon Bell, LB, Mays Landing, NJ
6. DaeSean Hamilton, WR, Fredericksburg, VA
7. Curtis Cothran, DE, Newtown, PA
8. Andrew Nelson, OT, Hershey, PA
9. Richy Anderson, RB, Frederick, MD
10. Tyler Ferguson, QB, Bakersfield, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	29.1 ppg	7	62
Rushing	143.9 ypg	9	83
Passing	273.6 ypg	2	35
Total	417.5 ypg	4	53
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	19.1 ppg	2	16
Rushing	128.4 ypg	4	23
Passing	225.0 ypg	8	50
Total	353.4 ypg	4	29
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+9	+0.75	3	22

Purdue BOILERMAKERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **78**
BIG TEN LEADERS PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Darrell Hazell
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 16-10 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Shoop
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Hudson
West Lafayette, IN
Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	at Cincinnati
September	
7	Indiana State
14	Notre Dame
21	at Wisconsin
28	Northern Illinois
October	
12	Nebraska
19	at Michigan State
November	
2	Ohio State
9	Iowa
16	at Penn State
23	Illinois
30	at Indiana

2012 RESULTS (6-7, 3-5)

Sept. 1	Eastern Kentucky		W	48–6
Sept. 8	at Notre Dame		L	17–20
Sept. 15	Eastern Michigan		W	54–16
Sept. 29	Marshall		W	51–41
Oct. 6	Michigan		L	13–44
Oct. 13	Wisconsin		L	14–38
Oct. 20	at Ohio State	(ot)	L	22–29
Oct. 27	at Minnesota		L	28–44
Nov. 3	Penn State		L	9–34
Nov. 10	at Iowa		W	27–24
Nov. 17	at Illinois		W	20–17
Nov. 24	Indiana		W	56–35
Jan. 1	vs. Oklahoma State #		L	14–58

#Heart Of Dallas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Danny Etling, QB, Terre Haute, IN
2. Matt Burke, TE, West Palm Beach, FL
3. Evan Panfil, DE, New Lennox, IL
4. Dezwan Polk-Campbell, LB, Columbus, OH
5. Leroy Clark, DB, Miami, FL
6. Dalyn Dawkins, RB, Louisville, KY
7. John Strauser, DE, Champaign, IL
8. Tyvel Jemison, CB, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Da'Wan Hunte, CB, Miami, FL
10. Jake Replogle, DE, Centerville, OH

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	28.7 ppg	8	64
Rushing	164.2 ypg	6	58
Passing	238.5 ypg	3	55
Total	402.7 ypg	5	58
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	31.2 ppg	10	87
Rushing	182.3 ypg	9	78
Passing	233.9 ypg	10	61
Total	416.2 ypg	11	77
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-2	-0.15	7	69

OFFENSE Four years of mediocre football and declining fan interest cost coach Danny Hope his job. Enter former Kent State coach Darrell Hazell, who wants the Boilermakers to be a more physical bunch. For starters, the quarterback probably will line up directly under center most of the time — a shock for a generation of Purdue fans reared on the spread.

At quarterback, Hazell says he won't name the starter until two weeks before the opener at Cincinnati on Aug. 31. Rob Henry is a good runner and the most experienced candidate with seven career starts, but none since 2010. Redshirt freshman Austin Appleby and true freshman Danny Etling are getting long looks and may have an edge if Hazell and his staff decide they want a better thrower.

"We've got three capable guys at the position," Hazell says.

Purdue also may rely on the run a little more than in recent years. Akeem Hunt had 134 yards rushing in Purdue's spring game and a 100-yard kickoff return for a TD against Ohio State last year. Hunt stands just 5'9" and weighs 184 pounds, but Hazell believes he can be an every-down back.

"I think he's a marquee guy in this league because he does have some balance," Hazell says. "He has some in-line quickness and top-end speed to take it the distance, and he is showing some toughness."

The offensive line returns three starters, the key one being Robert Kugler. The son of new UTEP coach Sean Kugler will move from guard to center, and the coaching staff believes he can be one of the Big Ten's best. Purdue has a collection of solid if unspectacular receivers, led by Gary Bush, who scored seven touchdowns on only 41 receptions, and Dolapo Macarthy.

1

Purdue has been ranked in the AP poll for only one week (in 2007) since the start of the 2006 season. The Boilers were ranked 79 times from 1997-2005.

DEFENSE Purdue lost standout defensive tackle Kawann Short to the NFL, but the strength of the defense remains up front. Ryan Russell has the talent to continue Purdue's tradition of stellar defensive ends. Hazell raved about the play of tackle Bruce Gaston during the spring after he returned from a thumb injury.

"He makes a world of difference inside," Hazell says. "He's just extremely strong at the nose position."

Overall, eight defensive starters return — which may not necessarily be a good thing considering Purdue was 11th in the Big Ten in total defense and 77th nationally. That includes middle linebacker Joe Gilliam and former quarterback Sean Robinson on the outside. Cornerback Ricardo Allen has NFL-quality cover skills but was slowed by injuries last season and during the spring. Former walk-on Landon Feichter became a ball-hawk from his safety spot last year with four interceptions.

"I think we have more depth than we've ever had since I've been at Purdue," Allen says.

SPECIALISTS Cody Webster averaged 42.3 yards per punt in 2012 and will be one of the Big Ten's best punters. But the placekicking was inconsistent at best, and there's no consensus on who will handle it going into fall camp. The Boilermakers led the Big Ten in kickoff return average (22.9), in large part due to Hunt and wide receiver Raheem Mostert.

FINAL ANALYSIS Hazell and his staff weren't left with an abundance of talent, particularly on the offensive side of the ball. The non-conference schedule is difficult with home games against Notre Dame and Northern Illinois in addition to the trip to Cincinnati. We'll get an idea if Purdue has a chance to be any kind of factor in the Big Ten when it plays its conference opener at Wisconsin on Sept. 21. A winning record equals a successful season. Make that very successful.

RICARDO ALLEN

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"I don't think this team is that far away. The games that were close, they just didn't make that many plays."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	16	Dolapo Macarthy (Jr.)	17	Charles Torwudzo (Jr.)
WR	8	Raheem Mostert (Jr.)	**6**	**Gary Bush (Sr.)**
LT	**64**	**Kevin Pamphile (Sr.)**	72	Jason King (Fr.)
LG	71	Devin Smith (Sr.)	52	Henry Lorenzen (Sr.)
C	**57**	**Robert Kugler (So.)**	59	Cody Davis (Sr.)
RG	59	Cody Davis (Sr.)	75	Josh Davis (Jr.)
RT	**51**	**Justin Kitchens (Sr.)**	70	Jordan Roos (Fr.)
TE	86	Gabe Holmes (Sr.)	84	Justin Sinz (Jr.)
QB	15	Rob Henry (Sr.)	5	Danny Etling (Fr.)
RB	7	Robert Gregory (Fr.)	28	David Yancey (Fr.)
RB	1	Akeem Hunt (Jr.)	25	Brandon Cottom (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**99**	**Ryan Russell (Jr.)**	48	Jules Williams (Jr.)
DT	**90**	**Bruce Gaston (Sr.)**	92	Ryan Watson (So.)
DT	97	Michael Rouse III (So.)	55	Brandon Taylor (Sr.)
DE	89	Jalani Phillips (Jr.)	**61**	**Ryan Isaac (Sr.)**
OLB	**10**	**Sean Robinson (Sr.)**	29	Jimmy Herman (Fr.)
MLB	**39**	**Joe Gilliam (Jr.)**	47	Ruben Ibarra (Sr.)
OLB	45	Will Lucas (Sr.)	40	Collin Link (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Ricardo Allen (Sr.)**	9	Anthony Brown (So.)
CB	24	Frankie Williams (So.)	1	Normondo Harris (Sr.)
SS	**44**	**Landon Feichter (Jr.)**	49	Ashkan Mizani (Fr.)
FS	**4**	**Taylor Richards (Jr.)**	7	E.J. Johnson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Paul Griggs (So.)	KR	1	Akeem Hunt (Jr.)
P	42	Cody Webster (Sr.)	PR	24	Frankie Williams (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Rob Henry, 38-21-216-1, 3 TDs
Rushing: Akeem Hunt, 42 att., 335 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Gary Bush, 41 rec., 360 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Landon Feichter, 80
Sacks: Ryan Russell, 4
Interceptions: Landon Feichter, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **19**

BIG TEN LEADERS PREDICTION **2**

Wisconsin BADGERS

CHRIS BORLAND

OFFENSE Offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig could face significant challenges in his first season at UW because of personnel issues. Ludwig should have several playmakers at his disposal, including tailbacks James White and Melvin Gordon, wide receiver Jared Abbrederis and tight end Jacob Pedersen. However, the starter at quarterback won't be determined until camp, because junior college transfer Tanner McEvoy isn't set to join the program until the summer.

McEvoy, who redshirted at South Carolina in 2011 before transferring to Arizona Western College, has three seasons of eligibility remaining. He'll likely battle Joel Stave and Curt Phillips. Stave, a sophomore, took over in Week 4 last season and started six games before suffering a broken collarbone. Phillips, a sixth-year senior, started the last five games in 2012. He has battled through multiple injuries to his right knee but remains a legitimate running threat.

Also, injuries left UW with only eight healthy linemen in the spring, and the staff acknowledges that the overall depth isn't close to where it needs to be.

Lastly, the wide receiver position beyond Abbrederis remains full of unproven players. UW needs to find a second threat, and no one emerged during spring ball.

9

Wisconsin had nine rushing plays of 50 yards or more last season. Only one team had more — Gary Andersen's Utah State Aggies with 10.

DEFENSE Not long after he was hired as UW's defensive coordinator, Dave Aranda talked enthusiastically about the variety of fronts he planned to use and how he hoped to attack opposing quarterbacks with blitz packages. "I am a big believer in that," he said. "I'm a big advocate of attacking protections."

Aranda, who plans to use three-, four- and five-man fronts and use zone blitzes liberally, should have the personnel in the front seven to get after opposing quarterbacks and ease the burden on a secondary that will be green with only one returning starter (safety Dezmen Southward).

UW has a surplus of experienced linemen, and Aranda's flexibility and desire to attack appears to be a perfect fit for players such as Brendan Kelly, Vince Biegel and Tyler Dippel — all of whom will see time at end/outside linebacker — along with senior linebacker Chris Borland. Opponents know about Borland's playmaking ability, but Biegel, who played in two games last season before a broken foot forced him to redshirt, could be an outstanding pass-rusher.

UW suffered a blow in April when senior David Gilbert, who had been hampered by injuries to his right foot in each of the last two seasons, announced he was leaving the program.

SPECIALISTS Kyle French (10-of-16 field goal attempts) and Jack Russell (0-of-2) were inconsistent last season, which led to uncertainty for most of the season. French was outstanding in the spring, but will that carry over to the fall? Punter Drew Meyer (41.5-yard average, 14 punts of 50-plus yards) was solid as a redshirt freshman but must improve his hang time.

FINAL ANALYSIS New UW coach Gary Andersen needed only four seasons to transform Utah State's football program from dysfunctional to dynamic. Last season the Aggies won 11 games and secured the school's first bowl victory in 19 years, and in the process passed Utah and BYU to take over the No. 1 spot in the state.

Andersen wasn't actively looking to leave Utah State in December when Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez offered him the coaching job — Andersen had already rebuffed overtures from California, Kentucky and Colorado — but he was intrigued by the opportunity to coach on a larger stage and respected the UW program.

Andersen believes UW can compete on a national level, and the players who return in 2013 believe a fourth consecutive Big Ten title is a realistic goal.

THE QUOTE

"Their linebackers are still great. Chris Borland is one of most underrated players in the country. He's fast. He's smart. He's instinctual."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	4	**Jared Abbrederis (Sr.)**	3	Kenzel Doe (Jr.)
WR	9	Jordan Fredrick (So.)	16	Reggie Love (So.)
LT	73	Dallas Lewallen (Jr.)	61	Tyler Marz (So.)
LG	79	**Ryan Groy (Sr.)**	71	Ray Ball (So.)
C	70	Dan Voltz (Fr.)	79	Ryan Groy (Sr.)
RG	54	**Kyle Costigan (Jr.)**	75	Zac Matthias (Sr.)
RT	78	**Rob Havenstein (Jr.)**	61	Tyler Marz (So.)
TE	48	**Jacob Pedersen (Sr.)**	85	**Brian Wozniak (Sr.)**
QB	2	Joel Stave (So.)		Tanner McEvoy (So.)
FB	34	Derek Watt (So.)	26	Derek Straus (So.)
TB	20	James White (Sr.)	25	Melvin Gordon (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

E/LB	51	Tyler Dippel (Sr.)	41	Jesse Hayes (So.)
DT	92	Pat Muldoon (Sr.)	45	Warren Herring (Jr.)
DT	87	**Ethan Hemer (Sr.)**	93	Jake Keefer (So.)
DT	96	**Beau Allen (Sr.)**	77	Bryce Gilbert (Jr.)
E/LB	97	Brendan Kelly (Sr.)	47	Vince Biegel (Fr.)
LB	44	**Chris Borland (Sr.)**	59	Marcus Trotter (Jr.)
LB	36	**Ethan Armstrong (Sr.)**	30	Derek Landisch (Jr.)
CB	5	Darius Hillary (So.)	22	Sojourn Shelton (Fr.)
CB	21	Peniel Jean (Jr.)	19	Hugs Etienne (Fr.)
SS		Donnell Vercher (Jr.)	26	Reggie Mitchell (Fr.)
FS	12	**Dezmen Southward (Sr.)**	43	Michael Trotter (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	94	Kyle French (Jr.)	KR 4	Jared Abbrederis (Sr.)
P	90	Drew Meyer (So.)	KR 4	Jared Abbrederis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joel Stave, 119-70-1,104-3, 6 TDs

Rushing: James White, 125 att., 806 yds., 12 TDs

Receiving: Jared Abbrederis, 49 rec., 837 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Chris Borland, 104

Sacks: Tyler Dippel, Brendan Kelly, 5

Interceptions: Three players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brian Ebner

Head Coach: Gary Andersen
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 30-31 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Andy Ludwig
Defense Coordinator: Dave Aranda
Madison, WI
Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-2 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	Massachusetts
September	
7	Tennessee Tech
14	at Arizona State
21	Purdue
28	at Ohio State
October	
12	Northwestern
19	at Illinois
November	
2	at Iowa
9	BYU
16	Indiana
23	at Minnesota
30	Penn State

2012 RESULTS (8-6, 4-4)

Sept.	1	Northern Iowa		W	26-21
Sept.	8	at Oregon State		L	7-10
Sept.	15	Utah State		W	16-14
Sept.	22	UTEP		W	37-26
Sept.	29	at Nebraska		L	27-30
Oct.	6	Illinois		W	31-14
Oct.	13	at Purdue		W	38-14
Oct.	20	Minnesota		W	38-13
Oct.	27	Michigan State	(ot)	L	13-16
Nov.	10	at Indiana		W	62-14
Nov.	17	Ohio State	(ot)	L	14-21
Nov.	24	at Penn State	(ot)	L	21-24
Dec.	1	vs. Nebraska %		W	70-31
Jan.	1	vs. Stanford #		L	14-20

%Indianapolis #Rose Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Corey Clement, RB, Glassboro, NJ
2. Alec James, DE, Brookfield, WI
3. Garret Dooley, LB, Rochester, IL
4. Tanner McEvoy, QB, Hillsdale, NJ*
5. Donnell Vercher, S, Clovis, CA*
6. Chikwe Obasih, DE, Brookfield, WI
7. Sojourn Shelton, CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
8. Keelon Brookins, CB, St. Paul, MN
9. Jackson Keeler, OL, Barrington, IL
10. Robert Wheelwright, WR, Columbus, OH

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	29.6 ppg	6	59
Rushing	236.4 ypg	3	13
Passing	156.9 ypg	12	111
Total	393.3 ypg	7	65
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	19.1 ppg	3	17
Rushing	128.9 ypg	5	24
Passing	193.6 ypg	5	18
Total	322.6 ypg	3	15
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+3	+0.21	5	48

Iowa

HAWKEYES

NATIONAL FORECAST 69
BIG TEN LEGENDS PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Kirk Ferentz
Record at School: 100-74 (14 years)
Career Record: 112-95 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Davis
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Parker
Iowa City, IA
Kinnick Stadium (70,585)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	Northern Illinois
September	
7	Missouri State
14	at Iowa State
21	Western Michigan
28	at Minnesota
October	
5	Michigan State
19	at Ohio State
26	Northwestern
November	
2	Wisconsin
9	at Purdue
23	Michigan
29	at Nebraska

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Sept.	1	vs. Northern Illinois %	W	18–17
Sept.	8	Iowa State	L	6–9
Sept.	15	Northern Iowa	W	27–16
Sept.	22	Central Michigan	L	31–32
Sept.	29	Minnesota	W	31–13
Oct.	13	at Michigan State (ot)	W	19–16
Oct.	20	Penn State	L	14–38
Oct.	27	at Northwestern	L	17–28
Nov.	3	at Indiana	L	21–24
Nov.	10	Purdue	L	24–27
Nov.	17	at Michigan	L	17–42
Nov.	23	Nebraska	L	7–13

%Chicago

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Colin Goebel, OL, Lisle, IL
2. Sean Welsh, OL, Springboro, OH
3. Jon Wisnieski, TE, West Des Moines, IA
4. LeShun Daniels, RB, Warren, OH
5. Malik Rucker, DB, Minneapolis, MN
6. Solomon Warfield, DB, Lorain, OH
7. John Kenny, LB, Carmel, IN
8. Derrick Mitchell, WR, St. Louis, MO
9. Nic Shimonek, QB, Corsicana, TX
10. Reggie Spearman, LB, Chicago, IL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	19.3 ppg	11	111
Rushing	123.0 ypg	12	101
Passing	187.4 ypg	7	99
Total	310.4 ypg	11	114
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.9 ppg	7	33
Rushing	162.1 ypg	7	63
Passing	219.5 ypg	7	44
Total	381.6 ypg	9	49
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+12	+1.00	2	13

OFFENSE There was plenty of blame to go around for Iowa's worst season in over a decade, but nothing was more glaring than its woeful passing attack under new offensive coordinator Greg Davis. Nobody declined more than quarterback James Vandenberg, who threw only seven touchdown passes as a senior after throwing 25 in 2011.

Jake Rudock, a third-year sophomore who did not play a down despite being the No. 2 quarterback in 2012, will top the depth chart heading into preseason camp. He is a pro-style quarterback who threw for over 5,000 yards at national power St. Thomas Aquinas (Fla.) High School. Former junior college transfer Cody Sokol and redshirt freshman C.J. Beathard are next in line should Rudock struggle.

The inability of the Iowa receivers to get separation and gain yards after the catch persisted throughout last season. Junior Kevonte Martin-Manley led the team with 52 catches last season, but only two resulted in touchdowns. Massive tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz caught 45 passes but scored only one touchdown. Iowa signed five receivers in its 2013 recruiting class, and several will have an opportunity to play right away.

Iowa has the pieces in place to be a force on the ground. Juniors Mark Weisman and Damon Bullock return at running back after rushing for 815 and 513 yards, respectively, last season. Sophomore Jordan Canzeri also is healthy after being redshirted last season.

17

Iowa has lost 17 of its last 29 games dating back to late in the 2010 season. Prior to that, the Hawkeyes had won 24 of their previous 29 games.

The running backs will have the luxury of running behind what appears to be yet another rock-solid offensive line led by junior left tackle Brandon Scherff.

DEFENSE Iowa has depth on the defensive line, but is it quality depth? We'll find out. The inability to pressure the quarterback was a problem that festered throughout last season. The Hawkeyes recorded a Big Ten-low 13 sacks in 2012. Senior Dominic Alvis started all 12 games at end, while junior Louis Trinca-Pasat did the same at defensive tackle. Massive junior Carl Davis has the size (6'5", 315) to disrupt things up front. It's just a matter of doing it.

Iowa's three senior starting linebackers have combined for 65 career starts, but none of them has made first or second-team All-Big Ten. Anthony Hitchens, recruited to Iowa as a defensive back, ranked sixth nationally in 2012 with 11.3 tackles per game.

Only one full-time starter has to be replaced in the secondary, but it won't be easy, considering everything Micah Hyde did for the Iowa defense. Senior free safety Tanner Miller is Iowa's most experienced defensive back with 23 starts to his credit. Sophomore Jordan Lomax is expected to replace Hyde at one cornerback spot.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Mike Meyer earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors last season after making 17-of-21 field goals. Connor Kornbrath held on to the punting job throughout last season despite averaging only 37.9 yards on 53 attempts. Jordan Cotton's emergence as a kick returner was one of the few bright spots last season. He led the Big Ten with a 28.2-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Kirk Ferentz enters his 15th season as the Iowa coach with his once-proud legacy now hanging in the balance. The Hawkeyes closed the 2012 season with six consecutive defeats en route to a 4–8 record, their worst since 2000.

While there are some bright spots — the running game should be solid and there is decent talent on the defense — it's tough to envision a big turnaround in 2013. With questions at quarterback and receiver, and a much tougher schedule — Ohio State and Wisconsin replace Indiana and Penn State — the Hawkeyes appear headed toward a second straight losing season.

MARK WEISMAN

THE QUOTE

"They don't have a tremendous amount of scheme throwing the football. But they are big and well-coached up front."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	4	Tevaun Smith (So.)		Damond Powell (Jr.)
WR	11	**K. Martin-Manley (Jr.)**	23	Jordan Cotton (Sr.)
LT	68	**Brandon Scherff (Jr.)**	73	Ryan Ward (Fr.)
LG	59	Conor Boffeli (Sr.)	58	Eric Simmons (So.)
C	63	**Austin Blythe (So.)**	57	Tommy Gaul (Jr.)
RG	78	Andrew Donnal (Jr.)	65	Jordan Walsh (So.)
RT	70	**Brett Van Sloten (Sr.)**	64	Cole Croston (Fr.)
TE	86	**C.J. Fiedorowicz (Sr.)**	82	Ray Hamilton (Jr.)
QB	15	Jake Rudock (So.)	19	Cody Sokol (Jr.)
YB	87	Jake Duzey (So.)	80	Henry Krieger-Coble (So.)
RB	45	**Mark Weisman (Jr.)**	5	Damon Bullock (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	95	Drew Ott (So.)	98	Mike Hardy (Jr.)
DT	97	Darian Cooper (So.)	67	Jaleel Johnson (Fr.)
DT	90	**Louis Trinca-Pasat (Jr.)**	71	Carl Davis (Jr.)
DE	79	**Dominic Alvis (Sr.)**	94	Riley McMinn (So.)
LB	20	**Christian Kirksey (Sr.)**	39	Travis Perry (So.)
LB	44	**James Morris (Sr.)**	52	Quinton Alston (Jr.)
LB	31	**Anthony Hitchens (Sr.)**	36	Cole Fisher (So.)
CB	19	**B.J. Lowery (Sr.)**	28	Maurice Fleming (Fr.)
CB	27	Jordan Lomax (So.)	7	Sean Draper (So.)
SS	21	Nico Law (Jr.)	37	John Lowdermilk (Jr.)
FS	5	**Tanner Miller (Sr.)**	37	John Lowdermilk (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Mike Meyer (Sr.)	KR	23	Jordan Cotton (Sr.)
P	98	Connor Kornbrath (So.)	PR	11	K. Martin-Manley (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None
Rushing: Mark Weisman, 159 att., 815 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Kevonte Martin-Manley, 52 rec., 571 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Anthony Hitchens, 124
Sacks: Dominic Alvis, 3
Interceptions: Christian Kirksey, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Joe Kosholek

NATIONAL FORECAST **14**

BIG TEN LEGENDS PREDICTION **1**

Michigan WOLVERINES

DEVIN GARDNER

THE QUOTE

"You can tell this is a Brady Hoke team by the way they play up front offensively. They'll move a pile."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	82	Amara Darboh (So.)	9	Drew Dileo (Sr.)
WR	10	**Jeremy Gallon (Sr.)**	86	Jehu Chesson (Fr.)
LT	77	**Taylor Lewan (Sr.)**	78	Erik Magnuson (Fr.)
LG	71	Ben Braden (Fr.)	56	Joey Burzynski (Jr.)
C	60	Jack Miller (So.)	61	Graham Glasgow (So.)
RG	67	Kyle Kalis (Fr.)	58	Chris Bryant (So.)
RT	75	**Michael Schofield (Sr.)**	69	Erik Gunderson (Sr.)
TE	19	Devin Funchess (So.)	84	A.J. Williams (So.)
QB	12	**Devin Gardner (Jr.)**		Shane Morris (Fr.)
FB	36	Joe Kerridge (So.)	39	Sione Houma (So.)
RB	28	**Fitzgerald Toussaint (Sr.)**		Derrick Green (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	57	Frank Clark (Jr.)	53	Mario Ojemudia (So.)
DT	55	Jibreel Black (Sr.)	56	Ondre Pipkins (So.)
NT	76	**Quinton Washington (Sr.)**	56	Ondre Pipkins (So.)
DE	92	Keith Heitzman (So.)	43	Chris Wormley (Fr.)
SLB	4	Cam Gordon (Sr.)	97	**Brennen Beyer (Jr.)**
MLB	48	**Desmond Morgan (Jr.)**	35	Joe Bolden (So.)
WLB	15	James Ross (So.)	48	Desmond Morgan (Jr.)
CB	18	Blake Countess (So.)	5	Courtney Avery (Sr.)
CB	6	**Raymon Taylor (Jr.)**	24	Delonte Hollowell (Jr.)
SS	30	**Thomas Gordon (Sr.)**	3	Marvin Robinson (Sr.)
FS	22	Jarrod Wilson (So.)	3	Marvin Robinson (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	34	Brendan Gibbons (Sr.)	KR	26	Dennis Norfleet (So.)
P	45	Matt Wile (Jr.)	PR	10	Jeremy Gallon (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Devin Gardner, 126-75-1,219-5, 11 TDs

Rushing: Fitzgerald Toussaint, 130 att., 514 yds., 5 TDs

Receiving: Jeremy Gallon, 49 rec., 829 yds., 4 TDs

Tackles: Jake Ryan 88

Sacks: Jake Ryan, 4.5

Interceptions: Thomas Gordon, 2; Raymond Taylor, 2

[#] Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

OFFENSE Michigan has long planned to implement a new pro-style offense after the graduation of Denard Robinson but got a preview of it in the final five games of last season due to a Robinson injury. The results showed just why this program is so excited for the future.

New quarterback Devin Gardner scorched opponents through the air, finishing 75-of-126 passing for 1,219 yards and 11 touchdowns despite playing exclusively at receiver before the move. He also rushed for seven scores in the five games. At 6'4" and 210 pounds, Gardner is not an electric runner like Robinson, but he's elusive. Armed with terrific vision and accuracy downfield, he's drawn comparisons to San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. Michigan should enjoy a successful transition to the pro-style offense.

The Wolverines have uncertainty elsewhere though, starting on the offensive line, where they're breaking in three first-time starters. The tailbacks were awful last year, averaging a school-worst 72.8 yards per game. The Wolverines will choose this year between a former 1,000-yard rusher coming off a down season in Fitz Toussaint, or the most heralded tailback recruit in the country in Derrick Green.

35

The Michigan defense allowed 35 plays of 20 yards or longer last season, the fewest in the country. The national median was 55.

They also need a third receiver behind proven weapon Jeremy Gallon and reliable slot guy Drew Dileo. Michigan could get creative with tight end Devin Funchess, who led the team with five touchdown grabs last year. He's a 6'4" pass-catcher who is a tough matchup because he's taller than corners and faster than linebackers.

DEFENSE The Wolverines are coming off back-to-back top 20 seasons defensively but are tasked with replacing their best lineman in Craig Roh, defensive back in Jordan Kovacs and linebacker in Jake Ryan, who will be out until at least mid-October with a torn ACL.

Ryan led the team in tackles (88), tackles for a loss (16), sacks (4.5) and forced fumbles (four) a year ago. U-M has moved Brennen Beyer from the defensive line to compensate for the loss, and he'll compete with senior Cam Gordon.

There are pieces to like, though. Junior defensive end Frank Clark is called a "freak" by teammates. He's a former safety who has packed on 50 pounds the past two years and can still outrun receivers despite weighing 277. He will be the key to stirring up a declining pass rush (22 sacks last year).

Third-year starting linebacker Desmond Morgan has moved from the weak side to the middle, which paves the way for promising sophomore James Ross to start on the weak side. He is somewhat undersized at 6'1", 223 pounds, but the Wolverines want more speed, and Ross is the fastest guy in the unit.

SPECIALISTS Michigan has a sure thing in placekicker Brendan Gibbons, who has hit 29 of his past 35 field goals and 13 in a row. Matt Wile will capably handle punt duties while reigning Big Ten Punter of the Year Will Hagerup serves a suspension. Dennis Norfleet was second in the Big Ten on kick returns as a true freshman. The only problem area is punt return, where Gallon has been unproductive.

FINAL ANALYSIS Michigan hasn't won a Big Ten title in eight seasons, its longest drought since 1951-63. A forgiving schedule should make the task more manageable this year, with all but two (Michigan State and Northwestern) of its toughest games slated for Michigan Stadium, where U-M is 14–0 under Brady Hoke. The emergence of Gardner should help stabilize the offense, and there are playmakers on defense. If the offensive line can find its way with three new starters, and a reliable tailback emerges, the Wolverines could make it back to the Rose Bowl for the first time since 2006.

Head Coach: Brady Hoke
Record at School: 19-7 (2 years)
Career Record: 66-57 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Al Borges
Defense Coordinator: Greg Mattison
Ann Arbor, MI
Michigan Stadium (109,901)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 6-2 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	Central Michigan
September	
7	Notre Dame
14	Akron
21	at Connecticut
October	
5	Minnesota
12	at Penn State
19	Indiana
November	
2	at Michigan State
9	Nebraska
16	at Northwestern
23	at Iowa
30	Ohio State

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Sept.	1	vs. Alabama %	L	14–41
Sept.	8	Air Force	W	31–25
Sept.	15	Massachusetts	W	63–13
Sept.	22	at Notre Dame	L	6–13
Oct.	6	at Purdue	W	44–13
Oct.	13	Illinois	W	45–0
Oct.	20	Michigan State	W	12–10
Oct.	27	at Nebraska	L	9–23
Nov.	3	at Minnesota	W	35–13
Nov.	10	Northwestern	W	38–31
Nov.	17	Iowa	W	42–17
Nov.	24	at Ohio State	L	21–26
Jan.	1	vs. South Carolina #	L	28–33

%Arlington #Outback Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derrick Green, RB, Richmond, VA
2. Patrick Kugler, OL, Wexford, PA
3. Dymonte Thomas, DB, Alliance, OH
4. Shane Morris, QB, Warren, MI
5. Kyle Bosch, OL, Wheaton, IL
6. Jourdan Lewis, DB, Detroit, MI
7. David Dawson, OL, Detroit, MI
8. Henry Poggi, DT, Baltimore, MD
9. De'Veon Smith, RB, Warren, OH
10. Taco Charlton, DE, Pickerington, OH

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	29.9 ppg	5	57
Rushing	183.8 ypg	5	41
Passing	199.3 ypg	6	94
Total	383.1 ypg	8	78
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	19.9 ppg	4	20
Rushing	150.5 ypg	6	51
Passing	169.5 ypg	2	5
Total	320.0 ypg	2	13
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-9	-0.69	10	99

Michigan State SPARTANS

NATIONAL FORECAST **32**
BIG TEN LEGENDS PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Mark Dantonio
Record at School: 51-28 (6 years)
Career Record: 69-45 (9 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Jim Bollman, Dave Warner
Defensive Coordinator: Pat Narduzzi
East Lansing, MI
Spartan Stadium (75,005)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-4 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Western Michigan
September	
7	South Florida
14	Youngstown State
21	at Notre Dame
October	
5	at Iowa
12	Indiana
19	Purdue
26	at Illinois
November	
2	Michigan
16	at Nebraska
23	at Northwestern
30	Minnesota

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug.	31	Boise State		W	17–13
Sept.	8	at Central Michigan		W	41–7
Sept.	15	Notre Dame		L	3–20
Sept.	22	Eastern Michigan		W	23–7
Sept.	29	Ohio State		L	16–17
Oct.	6	at Indiana		W	31–27
Oct.	13	Iowa	(ot)	L	16–19
Oct.	20	at Michigan		L	10–12
Oct.	27	at Wisconsin	(ot)	W	16–13
Nov.	3	Nebraska		L	24–28
Nov.	17	Northwestern		L	20–23
Nov.	24	at Minnesota		W	26–10
Dec.	29	vs. TCU #		W	17–16

#Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Damion Terry, QB, Erie, PA
2. Jon Reschke, LB, Sterling Heights, MI
3. Shane Jones, LB, Cincinnati, OH
4. Delton Williams, RB, Erie, PA
5. Dennis Finley, OL, Detroit, MI
6. Jalyn Powell, DB, Warren, OH
7. Jay Harris, WR, Downingtown, PA
8. Darian Hicks, DB, Solon, OH
9. Gerald Holmes, RB, Flint, MI
10. R.J. Shelton, RB, Beaver Dam, WI

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	20.0 ppg	10	108
Rushing	149.4 ypg	8	75
Passing	209.9 ypg	4	85
Total	359.3 ypg	9	95
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	16.3 ppg	1	9
Rushing	98.6 ypg	1	8
Passing	175.8 ypg	3	9
Total	274.4 ypg	1	4
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+2	+0.15	6	50

OFFENSE Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio spent the offseason searching for difference-making inches after a 7–6 campaign that saw the Spartans lose five games by a combined 13 points. Dantonio shuffled his offensive staff and looked to add explosive dimensions to his scheme while insisting on more mobility at quarterback. Longtime Ohio State offensive coordinator Jim Bollman, who spent last season at Boston College, will split coordinator duties with Dave Warner, who coached State's quarterbacks last season.

The quarterback derby could trickle into the early schedule, which is relatively light compared to the back end of the Spartans' slate. Senior Andrew Maxwell is the favorite to retain starting duties, but sophomore Connor Cook directed the game-winning drive in a come-from-behind 17–16 win over TCU in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl. Redshirt freshman Tyler O'Connor brings mobility, as does incoming freshman Damion Terry, and both will get a look.

Playmakers need to step up at the skill positions. Running back is up for grabs, with 230-pound redshirt freshman Riley Bullough, a former linebacker, entering the mix in spring drills along with juniors Jeremy Langford and Nick Hill. They will try to hold off a trio of incoming freshmen in the quest to replace Le'Veon Bell.

Senior Bennie Fowler and juniors Keith Mumphery and Tony Lippett are the top returning wideouts and give the Spartans an experienced trio of targets who have grown more reliable as their careers have progressed. The younger wideouts might ultimately be the most dynamic.

27
Mike Dantonio has led the Spartans to 27 Big Ten wins since 2008 – the most in any five-year stretch in school history.

The offensive line, which could be the most improved unit on the team, will benefit from the return of fifth-year senior Fou Fonoti and junior Travis Jackson, both of whom missed significant portions of last season due to injury.

DEFENSE The Spartans lost two full-time starters up front, but coordinator Pat Narduzzi insists that the front wall will remain sturdy. Seniors Tyler Hoover and Micajah Reynolds, junior James Kittredge and sophomore Lawrence Thomas will form a solid tackle rotation. Marcus Rush is a proven technician at one end, while sophomore Shilique Calhoun is a rising star at the other end.

The linebacking corps is at the heart of a defense that finished top 10 nationally in total defense, scoring defense and against the run and pass. Senior Max Bullough anchors the group from the middle and is flanked by Denicos Allen and NFL prototype Taiwan Jones (6'3", 240).

The secondary serves as the backbone of Narduzzi's "Quarters Press" scheme, and it's loaded with talent and experience. Projected first-round NFL Draft pick Darqueze Dennard and promising sophomore Trae Waynes will form a top-flight cornerback tandem. Redshirt freshman Demetrious Cox is a promising addition who will see the field when the Spartans use the nickel package.

SPECIALISTS If freshman Michael Geiger lives up to his billing as the top-rated prep placekicker, the kicking game should flourish. Punter Mike Sadler is a valuable special teams weapon. He led the Big Ten in punting with a 43.3-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Michigan State's close losses last season (five by four points or less) are well documented. But the Spartans also won four games by four points or less. The margin for error for this team was razor thin. The 2013 season could look a lot like the '12 campaign. The Spartans will once again be outstanding on defense, but issues remain on offense. The hope is that the improved offensive line will help the rest of the unit flourish. The schedule is favorable, but on paper it's tough to project this team to finish higher than Michigan, Nebraska or Northwestern in the division.

MAX BULLOUGH

THE QUOTE
"They are a good team defensively, just really well coached and they play hard. Offensively, as the nation saw, they struggled at times."
— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	13	**Bennie Fowler (Sr.)**	23	AJ Troup (So.)
WR	16	**Aaron Burbridge (So.)**	5	DeAnthony Arnett (Jr.)
WR	25	**Keith Mumphery (Jr.)**	14	Tony Lippett (Jr.)
LT	51	Fou Fonoti (Sr.)	76	Donavon Clark (So.)
LG	64	**Blake Treadwell (Sr.)**	66	**Jack Allen (So.)**
C	63	Travis Jackson (Jr.)	79	Kodi Kieler (Fr.)
RG	59	**Dan France (Sr.)**	66	**Jack Allen (So.)**
RT	70	**Skyler Burkland (Jr.)**	74	Jack Conklin (Fr.)
TE	92	Andrew Gleichert (Jr.)	83	Paul Lang (So.)
QB	10	**Andrew Maxwell (Sr.)**	18	Connor Cook (So.)
TB	30	Riley Bullough (Fr.)		Gerald Holmes (Fr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	44	**Marcus Rush (Jr.)**	92	Joel Heath (So.)
DT	91	Tyler Hoover (Sr.)	60	Micajah Reynolds (Sr.)
NT	8	Lawrence Thomas (So.)	99	James Kittredge (Jr.)
DE	89	Shilique Calhoun (So.)	42	Denzel Drone (Sr.)
OLB	34	Taiwan Jones (Jr.)	23	Jairus Jones (Sr.)
MLB	40	**Max Bullough (Sr.)**	41	Kyler Elsworth (Sr.)
SLB	28	**Denicos Allen (Sr.)**	45	Darien Harris (So.)
CB	15	Trae Waynes (So.)	37	Ezra Robinson (Fr.)
CB	31	**Darqueze Dennard (Sr.)**	39	Jermaine Edmondson (Fr.)
SS	9	**Isaiah Lewis (Sr.)**	26	RJ Williamson (So.)
FS	27	**Kurtis Drummond (Jr.)**	7	Demetrious Cox (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Michael Geiger (Fr.)	KR	13	Bennie Fowler (Sr.)
P	3	Mike Sadler (Jr.)	PR	21	Andre Sims (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Andrew Maxwell, 446-234-2,606-9, 13 TDs
Rushing: Nick Hill, 21 att., 48 yds, 1 TD
Receiving: Keith Mumphery, 42 rec., 515 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Max Bullough 111
Sacks: Denicos Allen, 3
Interceptions: Darqueze Dennard, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tom Lynn

NATIONAL FORECAST 61

BIG TEN LEGENDS PREDICTION 5

Minnesota

GOLDEN GOPHERS

PHILIP NELSON

OFFENSE In the boldest stroke of his two-year tenure, Gophers coach Jerry Kill tore up freshman quarterback Philip Nelson's redshirt at midseason and put the teenage phenom at the controls of his offense.

"I wouldn't do it if I thought he wasn't ready or wasn't capable," Kill said of Nelson's battlefield promotion. "We felt he gives us our best chance."

Maybe he did, though Nelson endured plenty of freshman moments before bouncing back with a two-touchdown performance in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. But if activating the quarterback early was risky, this year all that mileage should be beneficial.

Only one problem: Who's he going to throw to?

The offensive line is deep and feisty, and Donnell Kirkwood (926 yards) and Rodrick Williams (261) give the Gophers two solid if unspectacular tailbacks. But no returning Gopher receiver caught 20 passes last year, and the wideouts as a unit have four touchdowns among them. Nelson may be a passing savant and an elusive scrambler, as the Gophers believe, but he needs to find a go-to target right away.

175

Four Big Ten backs rushed for at least 175 yards vs. Minnesota in 2012, including Michigan State's Le'Veon Bell, who ran for 266.

DEFENSE By moving Derrick Wells from cornerback to safety, the Gophers turned an overmatched defense into a competitive one. This year's plan: Take another step forward — by moving Wells from safety back to corner.

Having a ball-hawking secondary helped the Gophers reduce their points-allowed by a touchdown per game, cut the number of passing touchdowns by more than a third, and triple the number of interceptions.

Still, the Gophers were battered by the run in Big Ten play, giving up an average of 197.1 rushing yards in league games. Their secondary, with Brock Vereen and Cedric Thompson supplementing Wells' coverage, should again be a strength, but they'll need lots more help up front.

Senior tackle Ra'Shede Hageman will draw double teams, so the defensive line, better at pass-rushing than run-stopping, will be tested. And with two starting linebackers to replace, it's hard to predict how much help is available. The Gophers are counting on junior college transfer Damien Wilson to step into the middle right away.

SPECIALISTS Aussie punter Christian Eldred averaged only 38.1 yards, and the Gophers finished last in the Big Ten in punting. Still, Kill insists he's pleased with the job Eldred did, especially since the Gophers didn't have a punt blocked. Kicker Chris Hawthorne finally inherits the field goal duty he transferred from NC State to handle.

FINAL ANALYSIS They haven't won a Big Ten title in 46 years, haven't been to the Rose Bowl in more than half a century. Yet Minnesota's long-suffering fans fervently believe that history is finally on their side. Not their own history. Their coach's.

Jerry Kill's records during his first three seasons at Southern Illinois were 1–10, 4–8 and 10–2, the latter commencing a streak of seven straight I-AA playoff appearances. Kill's records during his three seasons at Northern Illinois were 6–7, 7–6 and 10–3, and he left behind the nucleus of a team that reached the Orange Bowl last January.

Kill has the Gophers on a similar trajectory so far, going 3–9 and 6–7 his first two seasons. The Gophers were noticeably improved last year, particularly on defense, and though they remain overmatched against the Big Ten's elite, they still managed to qualify for a minor bowl game. So after two seasons of what he describes as "baby steps," can Kill take a giant leap forward once again?

"You've got to have high expectations," says Tracy Claeys, Kill's defensive coordinator at every stop.

THE QUOTE

"They are an athletic team — quick and fast, especially on defense. I thought they had a good secondary and a good pass rush."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**14**	**Isaac Fruechte (Jr.)**	18	Derrick Engel (Sr.)
WR	**80**	**Devin Crawford-Tufts (Jr.)**		Drew Wolitarsky (Fr.)
SR	4	KJ Maye (So.)	16	Jamel Harbison (Fr.)
LT	**58**	**Ed Olson (Sr.)**	74	Marek Lenkiewicz (Jr.)
LG	**52**	**Zac Epping (Jr.)**	53	Tommy Olson (Jr.)
C	63	Jon Christenson (So.)	67	Brian Bobek (Jr.)
RG	62	Zach Mottla (Sr.)	**64**	**Caleb Bak (Jr.)**
RT	**65**	**Josh Campion (So.)**	73	Joe Bjorklund (So.)
TE	**83**	**Drew Goodger (Jr.)**	88	Maxx Williams (Fr.)
QB	**9**	**Philip Nelson (So.)**	7	Mitch Leidner (Fr.)
TB	**20**	**Donnell Kirkwood (Jr.)**	35	Rodrick Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**98**	**Michael Amaefula (Jr.)**	91	Alex Keith (So.)
DT	**99**	**Ra'Shede Hageman (Sr.)**	52	Yoshoub Timms (Fr.)
DT	**46**	**Cameron Botticelli (Jr.)**	97	Scott Ekpe (So.)
DE	55	Theiren Cockran (So.)	93	Ben Perry (Jr.)
OLB	**57**	**Aaron Hill (Sr.)**		De'Vondre Campbell (So.)
MLB	5	Damien Wilson (Jr.)	50	Jack Lynn (Fr.)
OLB	9	James Manuel (Sr.)	32	Lamonte Edwards (Jr.)
CB	**13**	**Derrick Wells (Jr.)**	22	Jeremy Baltazar (Sr.)
CB	31	Eric Murray (So.)	29	Briean Boddy (Jr.)
SS	21	Brock Vereen (Sr.)	7	Damarius Travis (So.)
FS	**27**	**Cedric Thompson (Jr.)**	11	Antonio Johnson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Chris Hawthorne (Sr.)	**KR**	4 KJ Maye (So.)
P	94	Christian Eldred (Jr.)	**PR**	15 Marcus Jones (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Philip Nelson, 152-75-873-8, 8 TDs

Rushing: Donnell Kirkwood, 218 att., 926 yds., 6 TDs

Receiving: Isaac Fruechte, 19 rec., 256 yds, 2 TDs

Tackles: Aaron Hill, 74; Derrick Wells, 74

Sacks: Ra'Shede Hageman, 6

Interceptions: 4 players tied with 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brian Ebner

Head Coach: Jerry Kill
Record at School: 9-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 136-89 (19 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Limegrover
Defensive Coordinator: Tracy Claeys
Minneapolis, MN
TCF Bank Stadium (50,805)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 2-6 (BIG TEN)

August	
29	UNLV
September	
7	at New Mexico State
14	Western Illinois
21	San Jose State
28	Iowa
October	
5	at Michigan
19	at Northwestern
26	Nebraska
November	
2	at Indiana
9	Penn State
23	Wisconsin
30	at Michigan State

2012 RESULTS (6-7, 2-6)

Aug.	30	at UNLV	(ot)	W	30–27
Sept.	8	New Hampshire		W	44–7
Sept.	15	Western Michigan		W	28–23
Sept.	22	Syracuse		W	17–10
Sept.	29	at Iowa		L	13–31
Oct.	13	Northwestern		L	13–21
Oct.	20	at Wisconsin		L	13–38
Oct.	27	Purdue		W	44–28
Nov.	3	Michigan		L	13–35
Nov.	10	at Illinois		W	17–3
Nov.	17	at Nebraska		L	14–38
Nov.	24	Michigan State		L	10–26
Dec.	28	vs. Texas Tech #		L	31–34

#Meineke Car Care Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Berkley Edwards, RB, Chelsea, MI
2. Damien Wilson, LB, Ellisville, MS*
3. Eric Carter, WR, Lakeland, FL
4. Donovahn Jones, QB, Hampton, GA
5. Hendrick Ekpe, DE, Lewisville, TX
6. De'Niro Laster, LB, Cleveland, OH
7. De'Vondre Campbell, LB, Ft. Myers, FL*
8. Chris Streveler, QB, Woodstock, IL
9. Drew Wolitarsky, WR, Canyon Country, CA
10. Alex Mayes, OL, Van Alstyne, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	BIG TEN	National
Scoring	22.1 ppg	9	94
Rushing	151.9 ypg	7	67
Passing	169.5 ypg	9	105
Total	321.4 ypg	10	108
Defense	**Per Game**	**BIG TEN**	**National**
Scoring	24.7 ppg	8	45
Rushing	172.0 ypg	8	72
Passing	186.6 ypg	4	12
Total	358.6 ypg	5	33
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**BIG TEN**	**National**
-2	-0.15	7	69

Nebraska CORNHUSKERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 21
BIG TEN LEGENDS PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Bo Pelini
Record at School: 49-20 (5 years)
Career Record: 49-20 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Beck
Defensive Coordinator: John Papuchis
Lincoln, NE
Memorial Stadium (81,091)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-2 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	Wyoming
September	
7	Southern Miss
14	UCLA
21	South Dakota State
October	
5	Illinois
12	at Purdue
26	at Minnesota
November	
2	Northwestern
9	at Michigan
16	Michigan State
23	at Penn State
29	Iowa

2012 RESULTS (10-4, 7-1)

Sept.	1	Southern Miss	W	49–20
Sept.	8	at UCLA	L	30–36
Sept.	15	Arkansas State	W	42–13
Sept.	22	Idaho State	W	73–7
Sept.	29	Wisconsin	W	30–27
Oct.	6	at Ohio State	L	38–63
Oct.	20	at Northwestern	W	29–28
Oct.	27	Michigan	W	23–9
Nov.	3	at Michigan State	W	28–24
Nov.	10	Penn State	W	32–23
Nov.	17	Minnesota	W	38–14
Nov.	23	at Iowa	W	13–7
Dec.	1	vs. Wisconsin %	L	31–70
Jan.	1	vs. Georgia #	L	31–45

%Indianapolis #Capital One Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Terrell Newby, RB, West Hills, CA
2. Marcus Newby, LB, North Potomac, MD
3. Adam Taylor, RB, Katy, TX
4. Josh Banderas, LB, Lincoln, NE
5. Randy Gregory, DE, Fishers, ID*
6. Johnny Stanton, QB, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
7. Courtney Love, LB, Youngstown, OH
8. D.J. Singleton, DB, Jersey City, NJ
9. A.J. Natter, DE, Milton, WI
10. David Knevel, OL, Brantford, ON

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	34.8 ppg	2	28
Rushing	253.4 ypg	1	8
Passing	207.4 ypg	5	88
Total	460.8 ypg	1	26
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	27.6 ppg	9	58
Rushing	192.5 ypg	10	90
Passing	168.1 ypg	1	4
Total	360.6 ypg	7	35
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-12	-0.86	11	105

OFFENSE Optimism about the offense begins with quarterback Taylor Martinez, a fourth-year starter. He has been risk-reward throughout his career, however. Last season, for example, he set school records with 3,890 yards of total offense and 33 touchdowns passing and rushing. His passing yardage and TD passes were both the third-most in Husker history, and he was only the fourth Nebraska quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards in a season. On the negative side, he was turnover-prone, losing 8-of-16 fumbles and throwing 12 interceptions.

Ameer Abdullah was technically the No. 2 tailback but stepped up when the departed Rex Burkhead battled a knee injury, starting seven games and rushing for 1,137 yards and eight touchdowns. Imani Cross, the only other experienced I-back, is trying to prove that he's more than a third down back.

The top three receivers return: Kenny Bell, Quincy Enunwa and Jamal Turner. But Jake Long is the only experienced tight end, a position at which the Huskers have traditionally been solid.

The line again is built around first-team All-Big Ten and second-team All-America guard Spencer Long, an aggressive run-blocker, as well as three veteran tackles.

DEFENSE Coach Bo Pelini is spending more time with the defense, his area of expertise, a change that began a year ago. In addition, the defensive staff has a year's worth experience working with second-year coordinator John Papuchis. Line coach Rick Kaczenski and secondary coach Terry Joseph were new last season; linebackers coach Ross Els was new the year before.

35
Nebraska committed 35 turnovers last season, with 22 lost fumbles and 13 interceptions. Only one team (Idaho) had more turnovers.

There's experience and depth in the secondary. Cornerbacks Ciante Evans, Andrew Green, Josh Mitchell and Stanley Jean-Baptiste all have been starters.

In contrast, the defensive line has only two players with significant experience — end Jason Ankrah and tackle Thad Randle, who battled injuries last season. The plan is to utilize several players up front, some of whom could play both inside and outside.

The starting linebackers are new, with Zaire Anderson, a former junior college transfer who started one game in 2012 before undergoing knee surgery, and David Santos leading the way. True freshman Courtney Love might make an immediate impact.

SPECIALISTS Nebraska hasn't been concerned with kicking under Pelini, with Alex Henery for three seasons and then Brett Maher the last two seasons. Mauro Bondi backed up Maher two seasons ago then redshirted in 2012. Unlike Maher or Henery, Bondi was a scholarship recruit, with an impressive résumé out of high school. He has kicked only one extra point at Nebraska, however, so he's an unknown quantity. Henery and Maher punted as well, and Bondi could follow them. But redshirt freshman walk-on Sam Foltz appears to have the edge there. The loss of long-snapper P.J. Mangieri also is significant.

FINAL ANALYSIS Five seasons into his tenure, Pelini has gotten the program back on track, winning at least nine games in each of those seasons and playing for a conference title three times. But the Huskers have yet to win a championship, and they've lost their last three bowls.

The offense is championship caliber and is directed by a veteran quarterback. The main concern is the development of a line with two new starters. But the defense is inexperienced everywhere except at cornerback, and a question mark coming off a season in which it allowed a staggering 214 points and 2,380 yards in four losses.

The schedule sets up well, with eight home games and no Ohio State or Wisconsin in Big Ten interdivisional play. The Huskers could well be 8–0 going to Michigan in early November.

TAYLOR MARTINEZ

THE QUOTE

"They are run first and run second, and will think about running third. You have to stop the run and be aware of the play-action pass."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**80**	**Kenny Bell (Jr.)**	1	Jordan Westerkamp (Fr.)
WR	10	Jamal Turner (Jr.)	2	Alonzo Moore (Fr.)
WR	**18**	**Quincy Enunwa (Sr.)**	7	Taariq Allen (So.)
LT	**76**	**Brent Qvale (Sr.)**		Matt Finnin (Jr.)
LG	68	Jake Cotton (Jr.)	78	Givens Price (So.)
C	62	Cole Pensick (Sr.)	56	Mark Pelini (Jr.)
RG	**61**	**Spencer Long (Sr.)**	74	Mike Moudy (Jr.)
RT	**71**	**Jeremiah Sirles (Sr.)**	63	Andrew Rodriguez (Sr.)
TE	41	Jake Long (Sr.)	84	Sam Cotton (Fr.)
QB	**3**	**Taylor Martinez (Sr.)**	4	Tommy Armstrong Jr. (Fr.)
IB	**8**	**Ameer Abdullah (Jr.)**	32	Imani Cross (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**9**	**Jason Ankrah (Sr.)**	90	Greg McMullen (Fr.)
DT	53	Thad Randle (Sr.)	98	Vincent Valentine (Fr.)
DT	92	Kevin Williams (So.)	96	Aaron Curry (So.)
DE	94	Avery Moss (Fr.)		Randy Gregory (Jr.)
LB	13	Zaire Anderson (Jr.)	33	Jarad Afalava (Fr.)
LB	41	David Santos (So.)	15	Michael Rose (Fr.)
NB	**17**	**Ciante Evans (Sr.)**	14	Jonathan Rose (So.)
CB	**11**	**Andrew Green (Sr.)**	4	Mohammed Seisay (Sr.)
CB	16	Stanley Jean-Baptiste (Sr.)	**5**	**Josh Mitchell (Jr.)**
S	6	Corey Cooper (Jr.)	8	D.J. Singleton (Fr.)
S	21	Charles Jackson (So.)	1	Harvey Jackson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Mauro Bondi (So.)	**KR**	8	Ameer Abdullah (Jr.)
P	27	Sam Foltz (Fr.)	**PR**	10	Jamal Turner (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Martinez, 368-228-2,871-12, 23 TDs
Rushing: Ameer Abdullah, 226 att., 1,137 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Kenny Bell, 50 rec., 863 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Ciante Evans, 56
Sacks: Jason Ankrah, 2; Ciante Evans, 2
Interceptions: Stanley Jean-Baptiste, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tom Lynn

NATIONAL FORECAST **24**

BIG TEN LEGENDS PREDICTION **3**

Northwestern WILDCATS

VENRIC MARK

OFFENSE After transitioning to a run-based attack in 2012, Northwestern could feature one of the Big Ten's best offenses if its line comes together. The Wildcats return almost all of their top skill players, including senior running back Venric Mark, an All-Big Ten selection who racked up 1,366 rushing yards in 2012. Mark and quarterback Kain Colter spark a zone-read run game that at times is unstoppable, particularly in the red zone.

The Wildcats will continue using a two-quarterback system of Colter and junior Trevor Siemian that proved effective for much of 2012. Although Colter is a true dual-threat while Siemian boasts a big-time arm, both must show greater consistency with the high-percentage passes that fuel the spread offense. Northwestern once again looks extremely deep at receiver and tight end but needs more production from a group that had no player eclipse 35 receptions last fall.

The offense will hinge on a line that must replace three starters and had several key players out in spring practice. Center Brandon Vitabile is an excellent cornerstone, but Northwestern needs to fill out the other four spots and maintain the physical mentality that emerged in 2012.

19

Northwestern finished 19th nationally in rushing offense in 2012. It had finished no better than 45th in Pat Fitzgerald's first six seasons as coach.

DEFENSE The defense took a step forward last season and could take another as a new emphasis on speed in recruiting is paying off. Northwestern features playmakers at all three levels and saw its takeaways (29) and sacks (28) soar in 2012.

Senior end Tyler Scott anchors the defensive line after leading the team in sacks (nine), tackles for a loss (12.5) and forced fumbles (three) in 2012. He'll provide the power, while Dean Lowry, Deonte Gibson and Ifeadi Odenigbo bring tremendous speed as edge-rushers. The Wildcats are thin at defensive tackle and need young players to emerge.

Northwestern returns two starters at linebacker in veteran Damien Proby in the middle and Chi Chi Ariguzo, who had a role in six turnovers last season and brings a ball-hawking mentality to either outside spot. Collin Ellis and Drew Smith both will see field time.

No unit has benefited from the speed-based recruiting efforts more than the secondary, which finally boasts enough Big Ten-caliber players. Productive safety Ibraheim Campbell enters his third season as a starter, and dynamic cornerback Nick VanHoose also returns. Coach Pat Fitzgerald is excited about the depth at cornerback. Hard-hitting sophomore Traveon Henry could fill the starting safety spot opposite Campbell.

SPECIALISTS A liability for years, Northwestern's kicking game is suddenly a strength. The Wildcats return the Big Ten's top kicker in Jeff Budzien, who made 19-of-20 field-goal attempts in 2012, and the league's top return threat in Mark, who earned All-America honors as a punt returner after recording two touchdowns and averaging 18.7 yards per runback. Veteran punter Brandon Williams enters his fourth year as the starter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Northwestern finally put its bowl bugaboo in the rear-view mirror, and with most of its core pieces back from a 10-win team, the next step is to compete for a Big Ten championship. Although Fitzgerald has elevated the program in seven years, he's still looking for his first league title as a coach. The offense should be explosive if the line comes together in the preseason, as Mark provides the run threat Northwestern lacked for years. The defense boasts more speed, athleticism and playmakers like Scott, Ariguzo, VanHoose and Campbell. Special teams once again should be very strong.

"Now that we've set a benchmark for ourselves," Siemian says, "we know that it's unacceptable not to make it to the Big Ten championship or the Rose Bowl."

THE QUOTE

"The combination of (Kain) Colter and (Trevor) Siemian at quarterback is unique. They are both good. And I like how they use them."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**17**	**Rashad Lawrence (Sr.)**	19	Cameron Dickerson (So.)
WR	**14**	**Christian Jones (Jr.)**	80	Mike Jensen (Sr.)
WR	**6**	**Tony Jones (Jr.)**	21	Kyle Prater (Jr.)
LT	**75**	**Jack Konopka (Jr.)**	71	Shane Mertz (So.)
LG	53	Geoff Mogus (So.)	73	Adam DePietro (Fr.)
C	**66**	**Brandon Vitabile (Jr.)**	65	Hayden Baker (Jr.)
RG	57	Matt Frazier (So.)	63	Ian Park (Fr.)
RT	81	Paul Jorgensen (Jr.)	76	Eric Olson (Fr.)
SB	**40**	**Dan Vitale (So.)**	85	Mark Szott (So.)
QB	**2**	**Kain Colter (Sr.)**	13	Trevor Siemian (Jr.)
RB	**5**	**Venric Mark (Sr.)**	32	Mike Trumpy (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**97**	**Tyler Scott (Sr.)**	98	Deonte Gibson (So.)
DT	**67**	**Sean McEvilly (Jr.)**	99	Chance Carter (Jr.)
DT	92	Will Hampton (Sr.)	90	C.J. Robbins (So.)
DE	94	Dean Lowry (So.)	7	Ifeadi Odenigbo (Fr.)
LB	**44**	**Chi Chi Ariguzo (Jr.)**	51	Jaylen Prater (Fr.)
LB	**46**	**Damien Proby (Sr.)**	50	Timmy Vernon (Sr.)
LB	45	Collin Ellis (Jr.)	55	Drew Smith (So.)
CB	**23**	**Nick VanHoose (So.)**	2	Dwight White (Fr.)
CB	**15**	**Daniel Jones (Jr.)**	13	C.J. Bryant (Jr.)
S	**24**	**Ibraheim Campbell (Jr.)**	16	Davion Fleming (Sr.)
S	10	Traveon Henry (So.)	9	Jimmy Hall (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Jeff Budzien (Sr.)	**KR**	5	Venric Mark (Sr.)
P	49	Brandon Williams (Sr.)	**PR**	5	Venric Mark (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevor Siemian, 218-128-1,312-3, 6 TDs

Rushing: Venric Mark, 226 att., 1,366 yds., 12 TDs

Receiving: Christian Jones, 35 rec., 412 yds., 2 TDs

Tackles: Damien Proby, 112

Sacks: Tyler Scott, 9

Interceptions: Ibraheim Campbell, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brad Schloss

Head Coach: Pat Fitzgerald
Record at School: 50-39 (7 years)
Career Record: 50-39 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mick McCall
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Hankwitz
Evanston, IL
Ryan Field (47,130)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 (BIG TEN)

August	
31	at California
September	
7	Syracuse
14	Western Michigan
21	Maine
October	
5	Ohio State
12	at Wisconsin
19	Minnesota
26	at Iowa
November	
2	at Nebraska
16	Michigan
23	Michigan State
30	at Illinois

2012 RESULTS (10-3, 5-3)

Sept.	1	at Syracuse	W	42-41
Sept.	8	Vanderbilt	W	23-13
Sept.	15	Boston College	W	22-13
Sept.	22	South Dakota	W	38- 7
Sept.	29	Indiana	W	44-29
Oct.	6	at Penn State	L	28-39
Oct.	13	at Minnesota	W	21-13
Oct.	20	Nebraska	L	28-29
Oct.	27	Iowa	W	28-17
Nov.	10	at Michigan	L	31-38
Nov.	17	at Michigan State	W	23-20
Nov.	24	Illinois	W	50-14
Jan.	1	vs. Mississippi State #	W	34-20

#Gator Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Matt Alviti, QB, Park Ridge, IL
2. Godwin Igwebuike, ATH, Pickerington, OH
3. Tyler Lancaster, OL, Romeoville, IL
4. Kyle Queiro, S, Verona, NJ
5. Brad North, OL, Allen, TX
6. Anthony Walker Jr., LB, Miami, FL
7. Keith Watkins, CB, Cincinnati, OH
8. Sam Coverdale, OL, Chagrin Falls, OH
9. Jayme Taylor, TE, The Woodlands, TX
10. Blake King, OL, Shorewood, IL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	31.7 ppg	3	42
Rushing	225.5 ypg	4	19
Passing	169.1 ypg	10	106
Total	394.6 ypg	6	64
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.5 ppg	5	29
Rushing	127.6 ypg	3	21
Passing	250.5 ypg	12	84
Total	378.2 ypg	8	47
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+14	+1.08	1	10

C-USA CONFERENCE USA PREVIEW

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. MARSHALL **THUNDERING HERD** 8-5, 6-2 C-USA
2. EAST CAROLINA **PIRATES** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA
3. MIDDLE TENNESSEE **BLUE RAIDERS** 7-5, 5-3 C-USA
4. UAB **BLAZERS** 5-7, 4-4 C-USA
5. SOUTHERN MISS **GOLDEN EAGLES** 5-7, 4-4 C-USA
6. FAU **OWLS** 3-9, 2-6 C-USA
7. FIU **PANTHERS** 2-10, 1-7 C-USA

WEST

1. TULSA **GOLDEN HURRICANE** 10-3, 7-1 C-USA
2. RICE **OWLS** 8-4, 6-2 C-USA
3. LOUISIANA TECH **BULLDOGS** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA
4. UTEP **MINERS** 5-7, 4-4 C-USA
5. TULANE **GREEN WAVE** 4-8, 2-6 C-USA
6. NORTH TEXAS **MEAN GREEN** 3-9, 2-6 C-USA
7. UTSA **ROADRUNNERS** 1-11, 1-7 C-USA

C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: TULSA OVER MARSHALL

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Marshall
2. East Carolina
3. Southern Miss
4. Tulsa
5. Tulane
6. Louisiana Tech
7. FAU
8. Middle Tennessee
9. UAB
10. Rice
11. UTSA
12. FIU
13. North Texas
14. UTEP

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	2	4	2	1	5	1	7
FAU	14	13	5	13	13	4	9
FIU	7	12	13	14	10	14	8
LOUISIANA TECH	10	2	11	11	2	13	13
MARSHALL	1	7	1	6	3	7	5
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	6	9	10	5	11	6	10
NORTH TEXAS	12	10	12	4	14	3	3
RICE	4	5	7	3	4	8	2
SOUTHERN MISS	13	11	9	12	6	5	4
TULANE	11	8	3	9	8	11	1
TULSA	3	1	4	2	9	2	6
UAB	9	3	8	10	7	9	11
UTEP	5	6	6	7	1	12	12
UTSA	8	14	14	8	12	10	14

PRESEASON ALL-C-USA TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	RAKEEM CATO	6-0	184	Jr.	Marshall
RB	KENNETH DIXON	6-0	215	So.	Louisiana Tech
RB	TREY WATTS	5-11	190	Sr.	Tulsa
WR	JUSTIN HARDY	6-0	186	Jr.	East Carolina
WR	TOMMY SHULER	5-8	190	Jr.	Marshall
TE	GATOR HOSKINS	6-2	242	Sr.	Marshall
C	CHRIS JASPERSE	6-4	290	Jr.	Marshall
G	STETSON BURNETT	6-4	303	Sr.	Tulsa
G	WILL SIMMONS	6-5	342	Sr.	East Carolina
T	JAKE ALEXANDER	6-2	294	Jr.	Tulsa
T	BRANDER CRAIGHEAD	6-6	280	Sr.	UTEP

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	CODY BAUER	6-4	255	Sr.	Rice
DE	IK ENEMKPALI	6-2	250	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DT	BRANDON SPARROW	6-3	295	Sr.	Marshall
DT	KHYRI THORNTON	6-3	308	Sr.	Southern Miss
LB	JEREMY GROVE	6-1	240	Jr.	East Carolina
LB	SHAWN JACKSON	6-0	251	Sr.	Tulsa
LB	DERRELL JOHNSON	6-2	264	Sr.	East Carolina
CB	PHILLIP GAINES	6-1	185	Sr.	Rice
CB	DERON WILSON	5-10	181	Sr.	Southern Miss
S	MARCO NELSON	6-0	192	Sr.	Tulsa
S	RICHARD SPENCER	6-2	200	Sr.	UTEP

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CAIRO SANTOS	5-8	160	Sr.	Tulane
P	TYLER WILLIAMS	6-0	188	So.	Marshall
KR	TREY WATTS	5-11	190	Sr.	Tulsa
PR	JUSTIN HARDY	6-0	186	Jr.	East Carolina

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	SHANE CARDEN	6-2	218	Jr.	East Carolina
RB	VINTAVIOUS COOPER	5-9	200	Sr.	East Carolina
RB	DARRIN REAVES	5-10	210	Jr.	UAB
WR	KEYARRIS GARRETT	6-4	207	Jr.	Tulsa
WR	RYAN GRANT	6-1	190	Sr.	Tulane
TE	NEXON DORVILUS	6-4	230	Sr.	FAU
C	NATE RICHARDS	6-4	300	Sr.	Rice
G	CYRIL LEMON	6-3	321	Jr.	North Texas
G	JEREL WATKINS	6-3	280	Jr.	UTEP
T	JORDAN JEFFRIES	6-8	322	Sr.	Marshall
T	DARIUS JOHNSON	6-3	280	So.	MTSU

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ALEX BAZZIE	6-2	225	Sr.	Marshall
DE	HORACE MILLER	6-1	240	Sr.	UTEP
DT	ISAME FACIANE	6-5	295	Sr.	FIU
DT	HOSAM SHAHIN	6-3	290	Sr.	Rice
LB	STEVEN KURFEHS	6-2	230	Sr.	UTSA
LB	CAMERON NWOSU	5-10	240	Sr.	Rice
LB	ZACHARY ORR	6-0	223	Sr.	North Texas
CB	LORENZO DOSS	5-11	168	So.	Tulane
CB	ZAC WHITFIELD	5-9	180	So.	North Texas
S	KEVIN BYARD	5-11	220	So.	Middle Tennessee
S	TRISTON WADE	5-11	165	Jr.	UTSA

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CHRIS BOSWELL	6-2	200	Sr.	Rice
P	HUNTER MULLINS	6-3	195	Jr.	UAB
KR	AUTREY GOLDEN	6-0	190	So.	UTEP
PR	KENNY HARRISON	5-9	165	Jr.	UTSA

Stephen Lance Dennee/Icon SMI

NATIONAL FORECAST 77

C-USA EAST PREDICTION 2

East Carolina PIRATES

SHANE CARDEN

THE QUOTE

"More than any team we played last year, they got better week by week by week. That's a good testament to where they are headed."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	83	Jabril Soloman (So.)	15	**Reese Wiggins (Sr.)**
WR	33	Danny Webster (Jr.)	4	Quataye Smyre (Fr.)
WR	2	**Justin Hardy (Jr.)**	84	Justin Jones (Sr.)
WR	3	Lance Ray (Sr.)	89	John Worthy (Jr.)
LT	69	Isaac Harris (So.)	79	Ryan Revia (Fr.)
LG	78	**Jordan Davis (Sr.)**	64	Keifer Neal (Jr.)
C	74	**Taylor Hudson (Jr.)**	50	C.J. Struyk (So.)
RG	70	**Will Simmons (Sr.)**	68	Tre Robertson (So.)
RT	57	**Adhem Elsawi (Sr.)**	75	Chaz Lowery (So.)
QB	5	**Shane Carden (Jr.)**	13	Cody Keith (So.)
RB	21	**Vintavious Cooper (Sr.)**	22	Terrell Lane (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	58	**Lee Pegues (Sr.)**	94	Johnathon White (So.)
NT	54	**Terry Williams (Jr.)**	93	Chrishon Rose (Jr.)
DE	66	Terrell Stanley (So.)	5	Justin Dixon (Sr.)
OLB	56	**Derrell Johnson (Sr.)**	48	Maurice Falls (Jr.)
ILB	20	Kyle Tudor (Sr.)	24	Brandon Williams (Jr.)
ILB	53	**Jeremy Grove (Jr.)**	49	Ty Holmes (Sr.)
OLB	42	**Gabriel Woullard (Sr.)**	51	Montese Overton (So.)
CB	3	**Adonis Armstrong (Sr.)**	10	Rocco Scarfone (So.)
CB	37	Joshua Hawkins (So.)	4	Detric Allen (Jr.)
SS	1	**Chip Thompson (Sr.)**	7	Lamar Ivey (Jr.)
FS	11	**Damon Magazu (Sr.)**	35	Michael Dobson (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Warren Harvey (Jr.)	KR	3	Lance Ray (Sr.)
P	38	Trent Tignor (Sr.)	PR	2	Justin Hardy (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Shane Carden, 413-273-3,116-10, 23 TDs

Rushing: Vintavious Cooper, 200 att., 1,049 yds., 7 TDs

Receiving: Justin Hardy, 88 rec., 1,105 yds., 11 TDs

Tackles: Jeremy Grove, 83

Sacks: Derrell Johnson, 7

Interceptions: Chip Thompson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

East Carolina SID

OFFENSE The Pirates should again be a swashbuckling unit with the return of junior quarterback Shane Carden, decorated wide receiver Justin Hardy and senior running back Vintavious Cooper. They'll operate behind a veteran offensive line in what should be one of the most explosive and efficient offenses in Conference USA.

The Pirates averaged 31.5 points per game last season and ranked sixth in the country in red zone efficiency (92.6 percent). Carden won the starting job in the third week and went on to account for 30 of ECU's subsequent 44 touchdowns. His 3,116 yards passing were the third-most in school history, and he threw for multiple scores in six of the last seven games, including five against Memphis.

Hardy earned first-team All-C-USA honors after grabbing 88 passes for 1,105 yards and 11 touchdowns. He's the most dangerous of the receivers, but Danny Webster (five TDs), Jabril Soloman (24.1 yards per catch), Reese Wiggins and 6'8", 258-pound hybrid Justin Jones are also proven commodities.

The question mark is at running back. Cooper, who was Conference-USA Newcomer of the Year after rushing for 1,049 yards, sat out all spring, suspended for a violation of university policies. He's scheduled to return for the fall. There is quality depth at the position. Terrell Lane, the leading junior college rusher last year, joins the fray.

25.4

East Carolina gave up 2,015 rushing yards last year — 25.4 percent of which came in one game, when Navy rolled up 512 rushing yards in a 56–28 win over the Pirates.

ECU boasts some solid experience on the line in senior tackle Adhem Elsawi, All-C-USA second-team guard Will Simmons, and reliable Jordan Davis.

DEFENSE Ruffin McNeill replaced defensive coordinator Brian Mitchell shortly after ECU's 43–34 loss to UL Lafayette in the New Orleans Bowl. Last season, the Pirates gave up 430.7 yards per game and were especially bad against the pass (275.7 ypg). Down the stretch, they gave up 341 yards passing to Houston, 293 to Tulane, 419 to Marshall and 324 to UL Lafayette.

The secondary was new defensive coordinator Rick Smith's primary concern in the spring. Smith did not, however, get a chance to work with the Pirates' top defensive back. Safety Damon Magazu, an honorable mention All-C-USA pick in 2012, was sidelined with a back injury. He is expected back in the fall. Michael Dobson, a converted tailback, played his way into the rotation in the spring.

Meanwhile the Pirates' front seven could be special, led by linebackers Derrell Johnson and Jeremy Grove and defensive end Lee Pegues. Johnson is a four-year starter who led the team with seven sacks last year, a figure that could go up in Smith's new scheme. Johnson earned second-team all-conference honors, while Grove and the hard-charging, 6'2", 287-pound Pegues were both honorable mention choices.

SPECIALISTS Warren Harvey hit 15-of-20 field goal attempts and all 50 of his PATs. Senior Trent Tignor was 29th nationally with a 42.8-yard punting average, though the Pirates only finished 55th in the nation in net punting. Hardy was an all-conference pick as a punt returner with a 8.8-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Carden seems primed for another big year in coordinator Lincoln Riley's spread offense. Hardy is a dynamic, game-changing player, and NFL scouts are drooling over Jones, who could bust out big this season.

The question marks are on defense, where Smith begins his second tour of duty at East Carolina. He was the school's defensive backs coach from 2005-09 and has 32 years of experience. If he can shore up the pass defense, East Carolina will be in position to earn its seventh bowl bid in the last eight years and contend for the Conference USA East Division title.

Head Coach: Ruffin McNeill
Record at School: 19-19 (3 years)
Career Record: 20-19 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lincoln Riley
Defensive Coordinator: Rick Smith
Greenville, NC
Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (50,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

August	
31	Old Dominion
September	
5	Florida Atlantic
14	Virginia Tech
28	at North Carolina
October	
5	at Middle Tennessee
12	at Tulane
19	Southern Miss
November	
2	at FIU
9	Tulsa
16	UAB
23	at NC State
30	at Marshall

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 7-1)

Sept.	1	Appalachian State		W	35–13
Sept.	8	at South Carolina		L	10–48
Sept.	15	at Southern Miss		W	24–14
Sept.	22	at North Carolina		L	6–27
Sept.	29	UTEP		W	28–18
Oct.	4	at UCF		L	20–40
Oct.	13	Memphis		W	41–7
Oct.	20	at UAB		W	42–35
Oct.	27	Navy		L	28–56
Nov.	3	Houston		W	48–28
Nov.	17	at Tulane		W	28–23
Nov.	23	Marshall	(ot)	W	65–59
Dec.	22	UL Lafayette #		L	34–43

#New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Darren Dowdell, TE, Atlanta, GA
2. Tristan Mumford, LB, Statesville, NC
3. Lucas Thompson, DB, Winter Garden, FL
4. Kurt Benkert, QB, Cape Coral, FL
5. Devaris Brunson, LB, Lake City, SC
6. Marquis Wallace, OL, Henrico, VA*
7. Demetri McGill, DT, Virginia Beach, VA
8. Dashawn Benton, DB, Atlanta, GA
9. Randall Anderson, DE, Newcastle, DE
10. Terrell Lane, RB, Norton, KS*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	6	47
Rushing	135.4 ypg	9	90
Passing	273.2 ypg	5	36
Total	408.5 ypg	6	56
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	31.6 ppg	7	88
Rushing	155.0 ypg	4	53
Passing	275.7 ypg	10	107
Total	430.7 ypg	8	87
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
0	0.00	5	58

Florida Atlantic OWLS

NATIONAL FORECAST 116
C-USA EAST PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Carl Pelini
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Wright
Defensive Coordinator: Pete Rekstis
Boca Raton, FL
FAU Stadium (29,419)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (C-USA)

August	
30	at Miami (Fla.)
September	
5	at East Carolina
14	at South Florida
21	Middle Tennessee
28	at Rice
October	
5	at UAB
12	Marshall
26	at Auburn
November	
2	Tulane
16	at Southern Miss
23	New Mexico State
29	FIU

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Aug.	31	Wagner	W	7-3
Sept.	8	at Middle Tennessee	L	17-31
Sept.	15	at Georgia	L	20-56
Sept.	22	at Alabama	L	7-40
Sept.	29	North Texas	L	14-20
Oct.	13	at ULM	L	14-35
Oct.	20	at South Alabama (ot)	L	34-37
Oct.	27	Troy	W	34-27
Nov.	3	at Navy	L	17-24
Nov.	10	at Western Kentucky	W	37-28
Nov.	16	FIU	L	24-34
Dec.	1	UL Lafayette	L	21-35

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jaquez Johnson, QB, Starkville, MS*
2. Austin Bland, G, Fort Lauderdale, FL
3. Jay Warren, RB, Navarre, FL
4. Lance Burlingame, DT, Franklin, MA*
5. Marc Mauro, S, Bayville, NY*
6. Andrew Curtis, LB, Paradise Valley, AZ
7. DJ Juste, ATH, Port St. Lucie, FL
8. Branden Lyons, T, Sonoma, CA*
9. Kalib Woods, WR, Jacksonville, FL
10. Robert Miller, S, Fort Lauderdale, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	20.5 ppg	9	105
Rushing	113.1 ypg	9	107
Passing	237.6 ypg	6	60
Total	350.7 ypg	9	98
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	30.8 ppg	8	84
Rushing	202.1 ypg	9	102
Passing	204.0 ypg	1	27
Total	406.1 ypg	4	70
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-2	-0.17	7	73

OFFENSE In the second year of Carl Pelini's leadership from the sidelines, the coach will turn to a new leader on the field.

Quarterback Graham Wilbert is gone, meaning that the Owls will look to to either senior Melvin German III — who ran the scout team last season due to academic issues — or East Mississippi Community College transfer Jaquez Johnson to operate coordinator Brian Wright's spread offense. Both are quite a bit faster than Wilbert, so that should help improve an offense that ranked ninth in the Sun Belt last season with 350.7 yards per game.

The other good news is that the new quarterback will have plenty of experienced targets, with second-team All-Sun Belt pick William Dukes returning and speedster DeAndre Richardson back in the mix after missing 2012 due to an ankle injury. Richardson caught 32 passes for 269 yards two years ago.

The bad news? The quarterback may not get a chance to set his feet, unless the offensive line exceeds expectations, something it hasn't done in recent seasons. DeAndre Williams and Mustafa Johnson appear entrenched at left tackle and center, respectively, but there was a lot of spring shuffling at the other three spots.

Running back Jonathan Wallace, a walk-on who spent a season watching Alfred Morris breaking the school's rushing record, was a nice surprise last season, and he returns after gaining 673 yards. While not an elite breakaway threat — he averaged only 3.7 yards per carry — Wallace's ability to move the chains might help keep the quarterbacks upright.

12
The Owls must generate a pash rush this year after recording only 12 sacks last season, the fifth-fewest in the nation.

DEFENSE Can the Owls pressure the passer? That's the question. Defensive end Cory Henry, who showed such promise as a freshman, produced only two sacks last season. Now a senior, he needs to do more, as does a bulked-up Martin Wright on the other side. Both were dynamic in the spring game, although that was against an unsettled offensive line.

Hard-hitting cornerback Keith Reaser returns to anchor the secondary, where there appears to be decent depth.

The linebacking group should be able to endure the absence of leader David Hinds, with Andrae Kirk, Adarius Glanton and Randell Johnson all capable of covering considerable ground. Johnson, a pro prospect, could often line up on the line of scrimmage.

SPECIALISTS Mitch Anderson, thrust into the placekicking role when Vinny Zaccario abruptly left the team, did not fare well at first, getting three field goal attempts blocked in a three-point, double-overtime loss to South Alabama. He was better thereafter, taking heed of Pelini's advise to get more loft on his kicks. Anderson returns, as does punter Sean Kelly, who was a bright spot last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Prior to replacing program patriarch Howard Schnellenberger, Pelini served as the defensive coordinator for Nebraska. Still, he didn't inherit anywhere near the same talent that he had in Lincoln, and the progress of the defense proved uneven in 2012. The offense was uneven, too, as Wright was limited in what he could do with Wilbert.

Now Pelini has a few more of his players, bringing in a recruiting class widely regarded as among the best in school history. FAU appears to be moving in the right general direction in some areas — its penalty yardage, for instance, was way down in Pelini's first season. The out-of-conference schedule, while still including an opener at Miami, isn't quite as brutal as in 2012, when the Owls faced Georgia and Alabama on the road in consecutive weeks.

Yet the move to Conference USA, a year ahead of schedule, could make the ride bumpy, as could the inexperience at quarterback.

JONATHAN WALLACE

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback position will be the only thing they really need to get squared away to get going."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	88	Jenson Stoshak (So.)	2	DeAndre Richardson (Sr.)
WR	8	**Daniel McKinney (Sr.)**	15	Jay McCants (So.)
WR	19	**William Dukes (Jr.)**	83	Marcus Cunningham (Jr.)
LT	63	**DeAndre Williams (Sr.)**	78	Johnathon Ragoo (Jr.)
LG	74	Stern Vile (Sr.)	69	Isaac Edwards (Fr.)
C	58	**Mustafa Johnson (Jr.)**	68	Shane Blair (So.)
RG	73	Mike Marsaille (So.)	75	Karl James (Jr.)
RT	51	Braden Lyons (Jr.)	65	Vinny Davino (So.)
TE	9	**Nexon Dorvilus (Sr.)**	84	Alex Deleon (Jr.)
QB	7	Melvin German III (Sr.)	14	Jaquez Johnson (So.)
HB	27	**Jonathan Wallace (Sr.)**	22	Damian Fortner (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	5	Martin Wright (Sr.)	94	Andrew Stryffeler (Sr.)
DT	98	**Brandin Bryant (So.)**	99	Derek Butcher (So.)
DT	48	**Trevon Coley (So.)**	95	Kayvon Sherrill (Sr.)
DE	31	**Cory Henry (Sr.)**	92	Joe Henry (Jr.)
OLB	4	**Adarius Glanton (Sr.)**	34	Freedom Whitfield (So.)
MLB	45	Andrae Kirk (Jr.)	41	Josh Ballesteros (Fr.)
OLB	15	Randell Johnson (Sr.)	57	Michael Copeland (Jr.)
CB	3	**Keith Reaser (Sr.)**	1	Adrian Burton (Fr.)
CB	21	**D'Joun Smith (Jr.)**	7	**Cre'von LeBlanc (So.)**
SS	23	Winfred Strickland (Sr.)	17	Damian Parms (Jr.)
FS	26	Jeremy McKnight (Sr.)		Marc Mauro (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Mitch Anderson (Sr.)	**KR**	25	Travis Jones (Sr.)
P	16	Sean Kelly (So.)	**PR**	25	Travis Jones (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Stephen Curtis, 10-4-37-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jonathan Wallace, 175 att., 673 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: William Dukes, 63 rec., 979 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Adarius Glanton, 75
Sacks: Cory Henry, 2; Randell Johnson, 2
Interceptions: Adarius Glanton, 2; Keith Reaser, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Ralph Notaro/FAU

NATIONAL FORECAST **118**

C-USA EAST PREDICTION **7**

KEDRICK RHODES

THE QUOTE

"They will have one of the best defenses in the conference, and their defensive line gives everybody trouble."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	1	**Willis Wright (Sr.)**	81	Jairus Williams (Sr.)
WR	10	Glenn Coleman (Sr.)	82	Dominique Rhymes (So.)
LT	70	Aaron Nielsen (So.)	63	Ian Koch (Fr.)
LG	50	David Delsoin (Jr.)	59	Prince Matt (So.)
C	59	Donald Senat (Jr.)	75	Edens Sineace (Fr.)
RG	73	Trenton Saunders (Fr.)	77	Jordan White (Jr.)
RT	76	Yousif Khoury (So.)	71	Delmar Taylor (Jr.)
TE	80	Ya'keem Griner (So.)	33	Zach Schaubhut (Sr.)
QB	12	**Jake Medlock (Jr.)**	13	E.J. Hilliard (So.)
FB	36	Lemarq Caldwell (So.)	33	Zach Schaubhut (Sr.)
HB	9	**Kedrick Rhodes (Sr.)**	20	Shane Coleman (So.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	9	Giovani Francois (Jr.)	11	Denzell Perine (So.)
DT	99	**Isame Faciane (Sr.)**	41	Jerrico Lee (Jr.)
DT	44	Darrian Dyson (So.)	90	Fadol Brown (So.)
DE	92	Paul Crawford (Sr.)	8	**Greg Hickman (Sr.)**
OLB	48	Luis Rosado (So.)	22	Markeith Russell (Sr.)
MLB	13	Patrick Jean (So.)	55	Michael Wakefield (So.)
OLB	35	Davison Colimon (So.)	25	Derrick Jones (Sr.)
CB	3	Richard Leonard (Jr.)	23	Terrance Taylor (Sr.)
CB	39	Sam Miller (Sr.)	31	Jeremiah McKinnon (So.)
SS	26	Mitch Wozniak (Jr.)	43	Antwoine Bell (Sr.)
FS	32	Justin Halley (Jr.)	14	Demarkus Perkins (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	56	Sergio Sroka (Fr.)	KR	3 Richard Leonard (Jr.)
P	40	Chris Ayers (Fr.)	PR	83 De'Andre Jasper (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jake Medlock, 263-152-2,127-2, 13 TDs

Rushing: Kedrick Rhodes, 167 att., 714 yds., 4 TDs

Receiving: Willis Wright, 25 rec., 633 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Sam Miller, 62

Sacks: Giovani Francis, 4.5

Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

FIU SID

FIU PANTHERS

OFFENSE After the surprising firing of Mario Cristobal, and the unsuccessful attempt to attract Butch Davis, athletic director Pete Garcia brought in a man with 36 years of coaching experience at the collegiate or professional level.

And, since most of Ron Turner's experience — with the exception of head coaching stints at Illinois and San Jose State — has come as an offensive assistant, even as the coordinator for the Chicago Bears in a Super Bowl, that's the unit that will be most closely scrutinized.

This won't be an easy job. Only three offensive starters return, including oft-injured quarterback Jake Medlock, who threw only two interceptions but will be pushed by backup E.J. Hilliard, who showed some improvement in the spring. Medlock takes a lot of hits, and that is likely to continue unless a green line jells quickly. Only three returning lettermen have started a single game, and now all must adjust to a system change — from the spread to pro-style — that calls for far fewer shotgun snaps.

There should be more optimism about the so-called skill positions, with leading returning rusher Kedrick Rhodes, along with Willis Wright and Glenn Coleman, who are capable receivers who can get open down the field.

39

Kedrick Rhodes fell only 39 yards short of the school's rushing record despite being limited by ankle injuries.

DEFENSE This unit was a mixed bag last season, with strong numbers against the run and solid ones against the pass, but too many big plays yielded when it mattered most, and too little resistance offered in the red zone.

Now the two best players, safety Jonathan Cyprien and end Tourek Williams (6.5 sacks), are off to the NFL, and the entire starting linebacking trio is gone, too.

So new coordinator Josh Conklin, the former safeties coach at Tennessee, has the opportunity to shape his 4-3 defense with at least nine new starters. That defense will often look like a 4-2-5 with sophomore linebacker Davison Colimon dropping back to his former spot as a safety.

The standout figures to be cornerback Richard Leonard, who will be complemented on the other side by Sam Miller. And even with all the player departures, there is some experience on the defensive line (watch Giovani Francois and Isame Faciane) and an abundance of athletic ability in the back seven. Patrick Jean, one of three sophomores expected to start at linebacker, had an especially strong spring.

SPECIALISTS Jack Griffin and Josh Brisk held the role of kicker and punter for 40 and 36 games, respectively. With both gone, Sergio Sroka steps into the kicker spot, while Medlock — in addition to his quarterbacking duties — was competing with Chris Ayers to punt. The return game should be dynamic, even if Leonard (touchdowns in 2012 on both a punt and a kickoff) gives up those duties to De'Andre Jasper.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season was a downer, with FIU falling well short of expectations. Still, the dismissal of the popular Cristobal — who ended up at Alabama after a brief stop at Miami — was not well-received by many Panthers backers, who felt he'd done enough to elevate the program that he should have gotten another shot. Now Turner, who won Big Ten Coach of the Year back in 2001, takes over during a transitional time, with the move from the Sun Belt to Conference USA, a low number of starters returning, and a rather small recruiting class.

The Panthers had better beat Bethune-Cookman early on, or else they could be 0–4 before the bye. Then it will be even harder to bring back the enthusiasm that was prevalent around this program only two years ago.

Head Coach: Ron Turner
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 42-61 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ron Turner
Defensive Coordinator: Josh Conklin
Miami, FL
FIU Stadium (20,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 (C-USA)

August		
31	at Maryland	
September		
7	UCF	
14	Bethune-Cookman	
21	at Louisville	
October		
5	at Southern Miss	
12	UAB	
26	Louisiana Tech	
November		
2	East Carolina	
9	at Middle Tennessee	
16	at UTEP	
23	Marshall	
29	at Florida Atlantic	

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Sept.	1	at Duke		L	26–46
Sept.	8	Akron	(ot)	W	41–38
Sept.	15	at UCF		L	20–33
Sept.	22	Louisville		L	21–28
Sept.	29	at UL Lafayette		L	20–48
Oct.	4	Arkansas State		L	20–34
Oct.	13	Middle Tennessee		L	30–34
Oct.	20	at Troy		L	37–38
Oct.	27	Western Kentucky		L	6–14
Nov.	3	at South Alabama		W	28–20
Nov.	16	at Florida Atlantic		W	34–24
Nov.	24	ULM	(ot)	L	17–23

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Vontarius West, DB, Bartow, FL
2. Xavier Hines, DB, Miami, FL
3. Willie Smith, DB, Bradenton, FL
4. Chris Flaig, OL, Vero Beach, FL
5. Treyvon Williams, LB, Miami, FL
6. Silas Spearman, RB, Royal Palm Beach, FL
7. Wilkenson Myrtil, DB, Orlando, FL
8. Travis Wright, QB, Louisville, KY
9. Tofi Paopao, QB, Oceanside, CA
10. Jordan Budwig, OL, Fort Lauderdale, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	25.0 ppg	7	82
Rushing	145.3 ypg	7	80
Passing	238.4 ypg	5	56
Total	383.8 ypg	8	76
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	31.7 ppg	9	89
Rushing	140.8 ypg	2	36
Passing	262.1 ypg	7	96
Total	402.9 ypg	3	66
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-4	-0.33	8	82

Marshall
THUNDERING HERD

NATIONAL FORECAST **72**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Doc Holliday
Record at School: 17-20 (3 years)
Career Record: 17-20 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Legg
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Heater
Huntington, WV
Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,016)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

August		
31	Miami (Ohio)	
September		
7	Gardner-Webb	
14	at Ohio	
21	at Virginia Tech	
October		
5	UTSA	
12	at Florida Atlantic	
24	at Middle Tennessee	
November		
2	Southern Miss	
9	UAB	
14	at Tulsa	
23	at FIU	
30	East Carolina	

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 4-4)

Sept.	1	at West Virginia		L	34–69
Sept.	8	Western Carolina		W	52–24
Sept.	15	Ohio		L	24–27
Sept.	22	at Rice	(ot)	W	54–51
Sept.	29	at Purdue		L	41–51
Oct.	6	Tulsa		L	38–45
Oct.	20	at Southern Miss		W	59–24
Oct.	27	UCF		L	17–54
Nov.	3	Memphis		W	38–28
Nov.	10	at UAB		L	31–38
Nov.	17	Houston		W	44–41
Nov.	23	at East Carolina	(ot)	L	59–65

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Stefan Houston, LB, Clarksburg, MD
2. Deontay McManus, WR, Baltimore, MD
3. Taj Letman, S, Elberton, GA*
4. Michael Johnson, CB, Miami, FL
5. Chocolate Wilson, CB, Myrtle Beach, SC
6. Jeremiah Benjamin, LB, Hollywood, FL
7. Shykeem Pitts, DB, Davenport, FL
8. Sandley Jean-Felix, OT, Lauderdale Lakes, FL
9. Chris Huhn, OT, Pickerington, OH
10. Kevin Anderson, QB, Boca Raton, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	40.9 ppg	1	7
Rushing	169.2 ypg	4	54
Passing	365.1 ypg	1	1
Total	534.3 ypg	1	6
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	43.1 ppg	12	119
Rushing	203.1 ypg	10	104
Passing	253.5 ypg	8	91
Total	456.6 ypg	10	101
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-2	-0.17	7	73

OFFENSE With seven starters returning on a unit that averaged 40.9 points per game, expectations are justifiably high for the Marshall offense. Quarterback Rakeem Cato earned Conference USA Player of the Year honors after directing the nation's No. 1 passing offense (365.1 ypg) as a sophomore. Some of his primary outside targets are gone, but Cato should be in line for another big season. His touchdown-to-interception ratio went from 15-to-11 as a freshman to 37-to-11 last year, and the hope is that it will continue to improve in his third season as a starter.

Cato's inside targets, Tommy Shuler (110 catches, fourth-most in the nation) and tight end Gator Hoskins (35 catches), both return and will again play a large role in the offense. The outside receivers will be new, with Davonte Allen and Demetrius Evans stepping into important roles.

The coaching staff is hoping to be able to depend on the running game more when it wants to slow the high-tempo attack and protect a lead. A trio of sophomore backs look to be capable of carrying the load after combining for 1,617 yards as freshmen, but the offensive line, which returns virtually intact, had trouble in short-yardage situations a year ago. Still, with Cato at the controls, Marshall should be able to score against any defense it faces.

49.7

Marshall surrendered a staggering 49.7 points per game in its six road games last season, yet still managed to win two of those games.

DEFENSE Fixing a defense that surrendered 43.1 points per game — second-most in the nation — is obviously priority No. 1 for the Herd. New defensive coordinator Chuck Heater will try to put together a unit that can complement the Herd's high-scoring offense and get Marshall a bowl berth and potential Conference USA title.

The Herd allowed over 200 yards per game on the ground in 2012, so the front line must be reinforced. Defensive linemen Alex Bazzie and Brandon Sparrow were both honorable mention All-C-USA a year ago, and Jarquez Samuel stepped up in the spring. There is some cautious optimism that this group will be improved.

Behind them, early enrollee Stefan Houston won a job at linebacker in the spring and should be a welcome addition. Athletic sophomore D.J. Hunter started as an undersized linebacker last season, but he has moved back to his more natural safety position, which will keep him on the field all three downs. Corner Darryl Roberts, who was projected to start last year before being lost for the season to injury, is healthy and will reinforce the cornerback position that returns last season's starters.

SPECIALISTS The kicker-punter tandem of Justin Haig and Tyler Williams returns after solid seasons. Haig was 13-of-16 on field goals, including 4-of-4 from beyond 40 yards, and he made all 60 extra points. Williams had 13 punts of 50 yards or more, and the Herd ranked 46th nationally in net punting at 37.6 yard per kick. The area that needs to be shored up for Marshall was kickoff coverage, where the Herd were burned for three returns for touchdowns a year ago.

FINAL ANALYSIS This looks like a team that can win the reconfigured and depleted Conference USA. Cato has a shot to be the league's best player again, and the offense should be able to put up big points if the outside receivers can be productive and stretch defenses away from Shuler and Hoskins.

Defensively, the unit is more experienced and has a new coordinator, so there is at least hope it can hold up its end of the bargain one year after surrendering over 50 points five times.

With UCF off to the Big East and the game with East Carolina at home, the East Division title is certainly within reach for the Herd.

RAKEEM CATO

THE QUOTE

"They brought Chuck Heater as defensive coordinator. He'll do a tremendous job. He had Temple as a top-5 (scoring) defense two years ago."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	6	Davonte Allen (So.)	81		Craig Wilkins (Jr.)
WR	1	**Tommy Shuler (Jr.)**	33		Devon Smith (Sr.)
WR	4	Demetrius Evans (Sr.)	5		Shawney Kersey (Sr.)
LT	77	**Jordan Jeffries (Sr.)**	63		Gage Niemeyer (Sr.)
LG	71	Sebastian Johansson (So.)	79		**Josh Lovell (Jr.)**
C	60	**Chris Jasperse (Jr.)**	66		Cameron Dees (So.)
RG	74	Alex Schooler (Sr.)	52		Blake Brooks (Jr.)
RT	76	**Garrett Scott (Sr.)**	63		Gage Niemeyer (Sr.)
TE	26	**Gator Hoskins (Sr.)**	83		Eric Frohnapfel (Jr.)
QB	12	**Rakeem Cato (Jr.)**	15		Blake Frohnapfel (So.)
RB	37	Kevin Grooms (So.)	20		Steward Butler (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	53	**Alex Bazzie (Sr.)**	40		Ra'Shawde Myers (Jr.)
NT	96	**Brandon Sparrow (Sr.)**	91		Ken Smith (Jr.)
DT	94	Jarquez Samuel (So.)	93		Steve Dillon (So.)
DE	58	**Jeremiah Taylor (Sr.)**	52		Malcolm Strong (Jr.)
LB	3	Stefan Houston (Fr.)	44		Derek Mitchell (Sr.)
LB	46	**Jermaine Holmes (Jr.)**	49		Cortez Carter (Jr.)
LB	27	Billy Mitchell (Sr.)	50		Kent Turene (Fr.)
CB	2	**Derrick Thomas (Sr.)**	36		Monterius Lovett (Sr.)
CB	39	Darryl Roberts (Jr.)	8		**Keith Baxter (Jr.)**
S	30	Taj Letman (So.)	28		Corie Wilson (So.)
S	22	**D.J. Hunter (So.)**	1		A.J. Leggett (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	23	Justin Haig (Jr.)	KR	37	Kevin Grooms (So.)
P	38	Tyler Williams (So.)	PR	1	Tommy Shuler (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Rakeem Cato, 584-406-4,201-11, 37 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Grooms, 121 att., 737 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Tommy Shuler, 110 rec., 1,138 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: D.J. Hunter, 102
Sacks: Jeremiah Taylor, 5.5
Interceptions: Monterius Lovett, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Marshall SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **98**

C-USA EAST PREDICTION **3**

Middle Tennessee BLUE RAIDERS

LOGAN KILGORE

THE QUOTE

"They got their confidence back. The improvement in their defense was the biggest reason they turned it around."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**81**	**Christian Collis (So.)**	80	Chris Perkins (Jr.)
WR	**9**	**Kyle Griswould (Sr.)**	86	Devin Clarke (Jr.)
WR	3	Tavarres Jefferson (Sr.)	84	Terry Pettis (Fr.)
WR	19	Marcus Henry (Jr.)	13	Demetrius Frazier (Fr.)
LT	**75**	**Darius Johnson (So.)**	58	Jesse Grisham (Jr.)
LG	**77**	**Josh Walker (Jr.)**	62	Patrick Hughes (Jr.)
C	60	Nick Nunez (Jr.)	67	Josh Chester (Fr.)
RG	**61**	**Jadareius Hamlin (Sr.)**	78	Adam Stickel (Fr.)
RT	**73**	**Isaiah Anderson (Jr.)**	65	Hunter Rogers (Fr.)
QB	**10**	**Logan Kilgore (Sr.)**	11	Austin Grammer (Fr.)
RB	**26**	**Jordan Parker (So.)**	25	Reggie Whatley (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	17	Alexandro Antoine (So.)	**55**	**Shubert Bastien (Jr.)**
DT	92	Patrick McNeil (Jr.)	98	Derious Bennett (Fr.)
DT	**90**	**Jimmy Staten (Jr.)**	91	J.D. Jones (So.)
DE	97	Jiajuan Fennell (Jr.)	89	Dearco Nolan (Sr.)
OLB	22	David Jones (Sr.)	30	Stephen Roberts (Sr.)
MLB	**33**	**Roderic Blunt (Sr.)**	28	Christian Henry (Jr.)
OLB	38	T.T. Barber (So.)	40	Leighton Gasque (Jr.)
CB	**18**	**Kenneth Gilstrap (Sr.)**	**27**	**Chris Sharpe (Jr.)**
CB	8	Sammy Seamster (Sr.)	24	Jared Singletary (So.)
SS	**20**	**Kevin Byard (So.)**	23	Chris Brown (Fr.)
FS	34	Anfornee Stewart (Fr.)	31	Reginald Farmer (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	89	Cody Clark (Fr.)	**KR**	25	Reggie Whatley (Jr.)
P	48	Josh Davis (Sr.)	**PR**	9	Kyle Griswould

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Logan Kilgore, 335-212-2,571-6, 16 TDs

Rushing: Jordan Parker, 166 att., 851 yds., 3 TDs

Receiving: Anthony Amos, 72 rec., 992 yds., 9 TDs

Tackles: Craig Allen, 82

Sacks: Leighton Gasque, 4

Interceptions: Kevin Byard, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

MTSU SID

OFFENSE Senior quarterback Logan Kilgore, workhorse running back Jordan Parker and an experienced offensive line point to a big offensive year for Middle Tennessee. Kilgore has polished his game after passing for more than 4,800 yards and 34 TDs over the past two seasons. Parker rushed for a Blue Raider freshman record 851 yards in only six starts in 2012. He will be joined by speedy backs Reggie Whatley and Jeremiah Bryson, who can also contribute to the passing game.

Depth issues at receiver slowed the offense late last season, but junior college transfers like Devin Clarke and Chris Perkins could help fill that gap. Also, fifth-year senior Tavarres Jefferson, who led the team in receptions in 2011, returns from an injury that sidelined him last season. Four starters on a strong offensive line are back, but finding a center has been an offseason project.

Balance is the goal, as the offense will go as far as Parker and Kilgore can take it.

"We evolved into more of a run-oriented offense last year, especially late in the year when we had injuries at receiver," offensive coordinator Buster Faulkner says. "We found out we could win games running the ball, so we did. But I see us trying to be a little more balanced on the passing end this year."

15

Middle Tennessee has allowed only 15 sacks in the last two seasons, the fewest in the nation. Boise State and Air Force are next at 18.

DEFENSE In his first year, defensive co-coordinator Tyrone Nix stabilized the Blue Raider stop squad. It was solid but lacked a biting pass rush. Finding pressure is priority No. 1 for Nix.

"We want to be able to get pressure, so we don't have to leave our defensive backs out on an island," he says. "We have some guys that have had their moments. But we need them to show it more consistently."

Defensive end Alexandro Antoine and hybrid linebacker/defensive ends Leighton Gasque and Stephen Roberts are the top pass-rushing candidates. If they can add some pressure, it will greatly help a secondary that gave up too many big plays last season. Cornerback Kenneth Gilstrap and 2012 Freshman All-America safety Kevin Byard are proven performers, but most of the defensive backs have more untapped talent than experience.

Senior middle linebacker Roderic Blunt and defensive tackle Jimmy Staten are defensive leaders, but sophomore outside linebacker T.T. Barber fits the bill as the playmaker Nix needs.

SPECIALISTS Whatley was one of the nation's best kick returners last season, and Josh Davis is an experienced punter. Placekicker is wide open between Zachary Lopez, redshirt freshman Cody Clark and prized prospect Canon Rooker. None has attempted a college kick.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season's Middle Tennessee squad overachieved with an 8–4 record, but it suffered a bowl game snub in its final season in the Sun Belt Conference. Now 14 starters return from that team, which still feels vexed by the exclusion as it enters Conference USA. The schedule includes several unknowns, as the Blue Raiders have not played seven of its 2013 opponents in the past decade. But head coach Rick Stockstill still believes his team could contend for a title in its debut season.

"Our goal is to win this conference," Stockstill says. "Are we good enough to do that? I don't know because I haven't seen the other teams in Conference USA. There's an unknown there of how we stack up, but our mindset is on winning the conference."

Middle Tennessee's C-USA slate should be comparable to past Sun Belt competition, so bowl-eligibility is realistic. But the Blue Raiders must keep Kilgore and Parker healthy and develop more playmakers on defense to make a serious run at the conference crown.

Head Coach: Rick Stockstill
Record at School: 43-44 (7 years)
Career Record: 43-44 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Buster Faulkner
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Steve Ellis, Tyrone Nix
Murfreesboro, TN
Floyd Stadium (30,788)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (C-USA)

August	
29	Western Carolina
September	
7	at North Carolina
14	Memphis
21	at Florida Atlantic
27	at BYU
October	
5	East Carolina
12	at North Texas
24	Marshall
November	
2	at UAB
9	FIU
23	at Southern Miss
30	UTEP

2012 RESULTS (8-4, 6-2)

Aug.	30	McNeese State	L	21–27
Sept.	8	Florida Atlantic	W	31–17
Sept.	15	at Memphis	W	48–30
Sept.	29	at Georgia Tech	W	49–28
Oct.	6	ULM	L	17–31
Oct.	13	at FIU	W	34–30
Oct.	20	at Mississippi State	L	3–45
Oct.	27	North Texas	W	38–21
Nov.	1	at Western Kentucky	W	34–29
Nov.	17	at South Alabama	W	20–12
Nov.	24	Troy	W	24–21
Dec.	1	at Arkansas State	L	0–45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kamani Thomas, RB, Dallas, GA
2. Shane Tucker, RB, Memphis, TN
3. Shon Akins, CB, Norcross, GA
4. Devin Clarke, WR, Sebring, FL*
5. Jevontey Smith, WR, Greensboro, AL
6. Kenderson Obas, DT, Orlando, FL
7. A.J. Erdely, QB, Cumming, GA
8. Ed'Marques Batties, WR, Fresno, TX*
9. Canon Rooker, K, Richmond Hill, GA
10. Dalton Ownby, OL, Alcoa, TN

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	26.6 ppg	6	75
Rushing	176.7 ypg	4	46
Passing	216.1 ypg	8	77
Total	392.8 ypg	5	66
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	28.0 ppg	4	62
Rushing	188.3 ypg	8	84
Passing	252.6 ypg	5	90
Total	440.8 ypg	8	92
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+10	+0.83	1	19

Southern Miss

GOLDEN EAGLES

NATIONAL FORECAST **108**

C-USA EAST PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Todd Monken
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Arroyo
Defensive Coordinator: David Duggan
Hattiesburg, MS
M.M. Roberts Stadium (36,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (C-USA)

August		
31	Texas State	
September		
7	at Nebraska	
14	at Arkansas	
28	at Boise State	
October		
5	FIU	
19	at East Carolina	
26	North Texas	
November		
2	at Marshall	
9	at Louisiana Tech	
16	Florida Atlantic	
23	Middle Tennessee	
30	at UAB	

2012 RESULTS (0-12, 0-8)

Sept.	1	at Nebraska	L	20-49
Sept.	15	East Carolina	L	14-24
Sept.	22	at Western Kentucky	L	17-42
Sept.	29	Louisville	L	17-21
Oct.	6	Boise State	L	14-40
Oct.	13	at UCF	(ot) L	31-38
Oct.	20	Marshall	L	24-59
Oct.	27	at Rice	L	17-44
Nov.	3	UAB	L	19-27
Nov.	10	at SMU	L	6-34
Nov.	17	UTEP	L	33-34
Nov.	24	at Memphis	L	24-42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Devin Farrior, OL, Waynesboro, MS
2. Rod Crayton, DT, Dadeville, AL
3. C.J. Perry, LB, Bessemer, AL
4. James Cox, WR, Tuscaloosa, AL
5. Branton Lee, WR, Tallahassee, FL
6. Frederick Moore, OL, Heidelberg, MS*
7. Dylan Bradley, DE, Macon, MS
8. Draper Riley, TE, Harvey, LA
9. Christopher Robinson, DT, Shreveport, LA
10. JaMarcus Revies, WR, Petal, MS

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	19.7 ppg	12	110
Rushing	154.6 ypg	5	62
Passing	168.3 ypg	11	108
Total	322.8 ypg	10	106
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	37.8 ppg	10	113
Rushing	207.5 ypg	11	108
Passing	219.0 ypg	2	43
Total	426.5 ypg	6	83
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-16	-1.33	12	115

OFFENSE After going winless for the first time since 1925, Southern Miss fired Ellis Johnson after one season and replaced him with Todd Monken. Formerly the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State, Monken will bring his spread offense to the program, and 6'4" strong-armed redshirt freshman Kyle Sloter is expected to get the nod at quarterback, a position Monken will coach. Sophomore Ricky Lloyd started two games and played in five before suffering a torn ACL, which limited him in spring workouts.

A depleted, inexperienced offense will be deep at running back. Jalen Richard, a 5'8" sophomore, is the returning rushing leader (426 yards), and he'll get pushed by Tyre Bracken. Senior Kendrick Hardy also returns. Monken says the offense will look to the running backs to take the lead role.

The Golden Eagles will possess impressive size at receiver, where 6'5" junior Chris Briggs and 6'3" senior Dominique Sullivan return. A year ago, Briggs, whose uncle Jake Reed played for the Minnesota Vikings, averaged 13.1 yards per reception, while Sullivan started 10 games and led the team with three touchdown catches. Justin Sims and Francisco Llanos each had 20 catches, tied for second-most on the team.

The USM offensive line, perennially a solid unit, must replace four starters. Ed Preston, who started at right guard in 2012, is back.

96

Southern Miss dropped from 14th in scoring offense in 2011 to 110th in 2012 – a drop of 96 spots in the national rankings.

DEFENSE The best news for the defense is the return of former assistant David Duggan as defensive coordinator. Duggan is familiar with the players, many of whom he recruited as an assistant under former head coach Larry Fedora. Duggan was co-defensive coordinator in 2011 when the Golden Eagles set an NCAA record for interceptions returned for touchdowns.

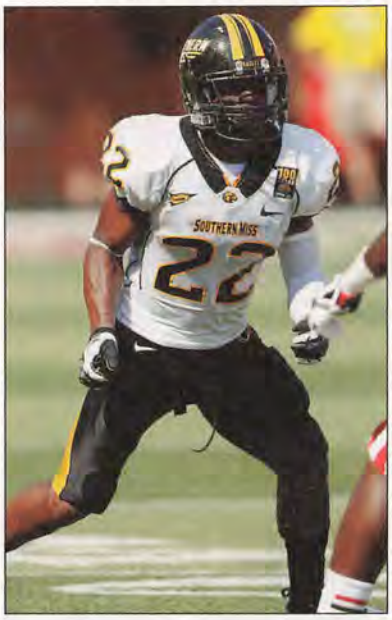
Duggan will welcome seven starters back, but the gaping hole in the defensive front will be the one left by the departure of Jamie Collins, a defensive end who had 21 sacks and 45 tackles for a loss during his career. His likely replacement is veteran Octavius Thomas, a 6'3" senior who sat out last season because of academic issues. Thomas is more of a prototypical defensive end at 6'3" and 230 pounds. Rakeem Nunez-Roches possesses quick feet that make him a feared pass-rusher, while Khyri Thornton is the veteran of the group with 23.5 tackles for a loss in 39 career games.

The linebacker position, which Duggan will coach, returns seniors Alan Howze and Dylan Reda, who combined for more than 120 tackles. The emerging star could be C.J. Perry, who signed with USM in February despite a strong push from TCU.

Seniors Jacorius Cotton and Deron Wilson will anchor the secondary. Wilson has eight career interceptions, three of which he has returned for scores.

SPECIALISTS Corey Acosta returns to handle the placekicking duties, but four-year punter Pete Boehme must be replaced. Acosta made 11-of-17 field goals last season, including a 51-yarder. Matthew Moseley, a transfer from Tennessee State, is listed at 5'10" and 159 pounds, but he possesses a strong leg and could move into the punting role. Among the biggest losses is return specialist Tracy Lampley.

FINAL ANALYSIS Not only does Monken inherit a team that was winless in 2012, but he also faces an early season challenge with consecutive road games against Nebraska, Arkansas and Boise State. Expect Monken to quickly restore some credibility on offense, where the Golden Eagles managed only 19.7 points and 322.8 yards per game a year ago. And expect the return of Duggan as defensive coordinator to address deficiencies there. The Eagles allowed a very un-Southern Miss-like 37.8 points and 426.5 yards per game in 2012.



DERON WILSON

THE QUOTE

"People need to be ready for them because they'll be back. They won't have another year like that again."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (2)

WR	9	Chris Briggs (Jr.)	81	Rickey Bradley Jr. (Sr.)
WR	25	Justin Sims (Sr.)	83	Cooper Harrington (So.)
WR	87	Francisco Llanos (Sr.)	24	Dimitri Smith (Jr.)
WR	18	**Dominique Sullivan (Sr.)**	5	D.J. Thompson (So.)
LT	73	Rashod Hill (So.)	72	Aaron Reed (So.)
LG	56	Garrett Clark (So.)	79	Taylor Peterson (Jr.)
C	66	Jordan Greene (So.)	78	Devin Farrior (Fr.)
RG	77	**Ed Preston (Sr.)**	75	Michael Brown (So.)
RT	74	Cedric Chisolm (Jr.)	70	Vincent Brown (Sr.)
QB	7	Kyle Sloter (Fr.)	8	Ricky Lloyd (So.)
RB	3	Tyre Bracken (So.)	29	Kendrick Hardy (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	91	**Michael Smith (So.)**	47	Nic Bekkers (Jr.)
NT	97	**Rakeem Nunez-Roches (Jr.)**		Rod Crayton (Fr.)
DT	98	**Khyri Thornton (Sr.)**	49	Adam Williams (Jr.)
DE	99	Octavius Thomas (Sr.)	94	Anthony Wilson (Sr.)
LB	55	**Dylan Reda (Sr.)**	14	Terrick Wright (So.)
LB	37	**Alan Howze (Sr.)**	40	C.J. Perry (Fr.)
LB	5	**Jerrion Johnson (Sr.)**	16	Alex Smith (Sr.)
CB	22	**Deron Wilson (Sr.)**	19	Urell Johnson (Jr.)
CB	11	Kalan Reed (So.)	31	Alex Walters (Sr.)
SS	12	Emmanuel Johnson (Jr.)	26	Debarriaus Miller (So.)
FS	28	Jacorius Cotton (Sr.)	16	Alex Smith (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	25	Corey Acosta (Jr.)	KR	3	Tyre Bracken (So.)
P	33	Matt Moseley (So.)	PR	87	Francisco Llanos (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ricky Lloyd, 44-22-277-3, 1 TD
Rushing: Jalen Richard, 87 att., 426 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Justin Sims, 20 rec., 294 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Alan Howze, 66
Sacks: Alan Howze, 2.5
Interceptions: 4 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Joe Robbins

NATIONAL FORECAST **107**

C-USA EAST PREDICTION **4**

UAB BLAZERS

JACKIE WILLIAMS

THE QUOTE

"Coach (Garrick) McGee did a great job of implementing his offense from Arkansas, with a lot of shifts and motion."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Jamarcus Nelson (Jr.)	8	Nyiakki Height (So.)
WR	12	Nolen Smith (Jr.)	22	D.J. Vinson (Jr.)
WR	15	Jackie Williams (Sr.)		Maudrecus Humphrey (Jr.)
LT	**60**	**Kaycee Ike (Sr.)**	72	Wesley Carter (So.)
LG	**71**	**Cameron Blankenship (So.)**	56	Roscoe Byrd (So.)
C	**54**	**Billy Autrey (Sr.)**	65	Dominic Sylvester (So.)
RG	76	Brian O'Leary (Jr.)	57	John Hix (Jr.)
RT	77	Victor Salako (Fr.)	78	Aaron Green (Jr.)
TE	**86**	**Kennard Backman (Jr.)**	35	Grant Davis (Fr.)
QB	**11**	**Austin Brown (So.)**	14	Jonathan Perry (Sr.)
RB	**5**	**Darrin Reaves (Jr.)**	32	Bashr Coles (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**48**	**Connor Boyett (Sr.)**	18	Trey Grissett (Jr.)
DT	**95**	**Deric Scott (Sr.)**	55	Jontavious Morris (So.)
DE	**46**	**Diaheem Watkins (Jr.)**	**90**	**Chris Walton (Jr.)**
OLB	**4**	**Jake Ganus (So.)**	25	Destin Challenger (So.)
ILB	**47**	**Patrick Bastien (Sr.)**	34	Daniel White (Sr.)
ILB	42	Shaq Jones (So.)	51	Jesse Parrish (Sr.)
OLB	33	Derek Slaughter (So.)	31	Tevin Crews (So.)
CB	**3**	**Lamarcus Farmer (So.)**	13	Darius Powell (So.)
CB	21	Kelton Brackett (So.)	19	Devon Brown (So.)
S	**11**	**Calvin Jones (Sr.)**		T.J. McCollum (Fr.)
S	10	Vashon Landers (So.)	9	Jay Davis (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	2	Ty Long (Jr.)	**KR**	24 Greg Franklin (Sr.)
P	36	Hunter Mullins (Jr.)	**PR**	15 Jackie Williams (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Brown, 355-205,2,673-12, 15 TDs

Rushing: Darrin Reaves, 215 att., 1,037 yds., 13 TDs

Receiving: Jackie Williams, 52 rec., 799 yds., 1 TD

Tackles: Calvin Jones, 71

Sacks: Connor Boyett, 3

Interceptions: Jake Ganus, 1; Derek Slaughter, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UAB SID

OFFENSE Austin Brown returns for his second season as UAB's starting quarterback after being selected to the C-USA All-Freshman team a year ago. At least Brown, who fought through a variety of injuries to throw for 2,673 yards and 15 touchdowns, is penciled in as the starter, but that could change at some point between the opening of fall camp and the first kickoff of the season. Senior Jonathan Perry, who started eight games in 2011 and was the starter heading into last season, is pushing Brown. The depth is excellent at quarterback with the addition of freshman Jeremiah Briscoe and junior college transfer Myles McKee.

Darrin Reaves should once again carry the load after becoming only the second running back in the program's history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark. But Reaves, who has a solid mixture of strength and speed, is just part of a crowded backfield that also includes versatile senior Greg Franklin, physical sophomore Bashr Coles and promising freshman Jordan Howard. Fullback Santonio Jones, a former walk-on linebacker, is an excellent blocker.

50.5

UAB allowed an average of 50.5 points in losses to Tulane and Memphis, which were a combined 6–18 last season.

Senior wide receiver Jackie Williams, who has 140 career catches, is one of the top receivers in the conference. He'll lead a strong group that is bolstered by the return of Nolen Smith, who can play either tight end or wide receiver, from a knee injury that kept him out last season. Tight end Kennard Backman should be one of the team's top targets. He caught 23 passes for 235 yards and four scores as a sophomore.

UAB lost its best lineman — tackle Chris Hubbard — to graduation but returns virtually everyone else. Redshirt freshman tackle Victor Salako could be a star in the future, but this year's line is built around center Billy Autrey and tackle Kaycee Ike.

DEFENSE UAB will change its look at times — lining up in a 3-4 and 4-3 — in hopes of improving a defense that wasn't very good last season. Replacing middle linebacker Marvin Burdette, the school's career leader in tackles, won't be easy, but the Blazers should be good at linebacker. Sophomore Shaq Jones and seniors Daniel White and Patrick Bastien will anchor the middle while outside linebackers include converted safety Jake Ganus, Tevin Crews, Destin Challenger and Derek Slaughter.

The defensive front is potentially a strength with returning regulars Deric Scott, Connor Boyett, Diaheem Watkins and Chris Walton. Jontavious Morris and Chris Rabb are proven as well.

Senior safety Calvin Jones will provide leadership for a young secondary. Sophomore cornerback Lamarcus Farmer, a former walk-on, was one of the more consistent secondary players a year ago despite playing through injuries. Sophomores Kelton Brackett and Devon Brown should be much better after a year of college seasoning.

SPECIALISTS Ty Long is one of the more consistent kickers in Conference USA. The steady junior was 30-of-36 on field goal attempts in his first two seasons and was much more effective on kickoffs as a sophomore. Punter Hunter Mullins ranked 12th nationally with a 44.8-yard average, but the Blazers ranked 114th in the nation in net punting (33.5-yard average).

FINAL ANALYSIS UAB will be better in Garrick McGee's second season as the head coach. Will that show in the win-loss column? It should, even though the Blazers' non-conference slate includes trips to SEC members LSU and Vanderbilt and in-state rival Troy during the first four weeks of the season. If the Blazers are healthy after that stretch, they could threaten to finish in the upper echelon of the revamped Conference USA. If not, then it could be another difficult season.

Head Coach: Garrick McGee
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Richard Owens
Defensive Coordinator: Reggie Johnson
Birmingham, AL
Legion Field (72,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (C-USA)

August	
31	at Troy
September	
7	at LSU
21	Northwestern State
28	at Vanderbilt
October	
5	Florida Atlantic
12	at FIU
26	at UTSA
November	
2	Middle Tennessee
9	at Marshall
16	at East Carolina
23	Rice
30	Southern Miss

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Sept.	1	Troy	L	29–39
Sept.	15	at South Carolina	L	6–49
Sept.	22	at Ohio State	L	15–29
Sept.	29	Tulsa	L	42–49
Oct.	6	SE Louisiana	W	52–3
Oct.	13	at Houston	L	17–39
Oct.	20	East Carolina	L	35–42
Oct.	27	at Tulane	L	45–55
Nov.	3	at Southern Miss	W	27–19
Nov.	10	Marshall	W	38–31
Nov.	17	Memphis	L	9–46
Nov.	24	at UCF	L	24–49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. T.J. McCollum, S, Birmingham, AL
2. Vincent Hunter, OL, Memphis, TN
3. Je'Niah Jackson, LB, Hoover, AL
4. Jamari Staples, WR, Lineville, AL
5. Kingsley Ejike, DE, Covington, GA
6. Brandon Fuller, LB, Birmingham, AL
7. Jeremiah Briscoe, QB, Houston, TX
8. J.J. Green, WR, Florence, AL
9. Tristan Henderson, TE, Los Alamitos, CA*
10. Jordan Howard, RB, Gardendale, AL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	28.3 ppg	8	67
Rushing	110.3 ypg	11	109
Passing	308.8 ypg	3	19
Total	419.1 ypg	5	50
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	37.5 ppg	9	111
Rushing	182.7 ypg	6	80
Passing	244.6 ypg	5	77
Total	427.3 ypg	7	84
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-9	-0.75	10	101

Louisiana Tech BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST **90**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Skip Holtz
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 88-71 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Petersen
Defensive Coordinator: Kim Dameron
Ruston, LA
Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

August		
31	at NC State	
September		
7	Lamar	
12	Tulane	
21	at Kansas	
28	vs. Army #	
October		
5	at UTEP	
19	North Texas	
26	at FIU	
November		
9	Southern Miss	
16	at Rice	
23	Tulsa	
30	at UTSA	

#Dallas, TX

2012 RESULTS (9-3, 4-2)

Sept. 8	at Houston		W	56-49
Sept. 15	Rice		W	56-37
Sept. 22	at Illinois		W	52-24
Sept. 29	at Virginia		W	44-38
Oct. 6	UNLV		W	58-31
Oct. 13	vs. Texas A&M %		L	57-59
Oct. 20	Idaho		W	70-28
Oct. 27	at New Mexico State		W	28-14
Nov. 3	UTSA		W	51-27
Nov. 10	at Texas State		W	62-55
Nov. 17	Utah State	(ot)	L	41-48
Nov. 24	at San Jose State		L	43-52

%Shreveport, LA

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Xavier Woods, CB, West Monroe, LA
2. Hakim Gray, DE, Keachi, LA
3. Eddie Johnson, WR, Midlothian, TX*
4. Mitchell Bell, G, Houston, TX*
5. Trent Taylor, WR, Shreveport, LA
6. Terrell Pinson, S, Tupelo, MS*
7. Carlos Henderson, ATH, New Orleans, LA
8. DeAngelo Brooks, DT, Shreveport, LA*
9. Nick Thomason, LB, Muscle Shoals, AL*
10. Mitch Villemez, LB, Brenham, TX*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	51.5 ppg	1	1
Rushing	227.2 ypg	1	17
Passing	350.8 ypg	1	3
Total	577.9 ypg	1	1
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
Scoring	38.5 ppg	3	116
Rushing	185.7 ypg	3	83
Passing	340.4 ypg	5	120
Total	526.1 ypg	5	120
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
+13	+1.08	1	10

OFFENSE The good news? Louisiana Tech led the nation in total offense (577.9 ypg) and scoring (51.5 ppg) last season. The bad news? Ten offensive starters are gone, including quarterback Colby Cameron, and head coach Sonny Dykes and offensive coordinator Tony Franklin also departed.

New coach Skip Holtz is starting over in a lot of ways, but he will keep the spread attack that the Bulldogs used so effectively in 2012. Holtz does not want to push the tempo as much, but he will use most of the same four-wide sets. Texas Tech transfer Scotty Young has the inside track to replace Cameron at quarterback. Young was recruited to play in Mike Leach's Air Raid attack, but Leach was fired before Young got to campus, and Young never won the job with Tommy Tuberville as coach. Young has a strong arm and showed some mobility in the spring.

His receiving corps has some experience, led by D.J. Banks, who will have to take on the leadership role as a senior after being a productive reserve last season with 33 catches for 434 yards and two touchdowns.

Running back Kenneth Dixon set the FBS record for rushing touchdowns by a freshman (27), and he will be ably supported by Tevin King, but the offensive line is a big question mark. Four starters are gone, and there are few all-league candidates among the projected starters — at least coming out of spring. While Dixon is a true star, his production will likely dip with a new line in front of him.

11
Kenneth Dixon scored more touchdowns (28) as a freshman than nine entire teams in the FBS ranks.

DEFENSE As good as Louisiana Tech's offense was in 2012, its defense was almost that bad. The Bulldogs ranked No. 116 in scoring defense and No. 120 in total defense, so losing seven starters off that unit isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Up front, Holtz has been impressed with the depth he inherited, which includes three starters from last year's unit that actually ranked No. 3 in the WAC against the run. IK Enemkpali has the potential to earn All-C-USA honors at defensive end, and run-stuffer Justin Ellis has slimmed down to 330 pounds and should be a handful as a senior for opposing offensive linemen.

The Bulldogs are using a 4-2-5 alignment, with both starting linebackers potentially being newcomers. Mitch Villemez and Nick Thomason are junior college transfers who impressed in the spring. Athletic Beau Fitte is also pushing for a starting spot.

In the secondary, Le'Vander Liggins is a holdover from last year's unit, and he showed major improvement in spring drills. It appears that Jabari Prewitt, Lloyd Grogan and Kentrell Brice will be the three safeties, with Brice, a Ruston native, impressing the staff the most during spring practice.

SPECIALISTS Louisiana Tech is bidding farewell to two-time Ray Guy winner Ryan Allen and replacing him with true freshman Logan McPherson. The Bulldogs led the nation in net punting largely on the strength of Allen's leg, but the coverage unit also excelled. Another true freshman, Jonathan Barnes, takes over at kicker, while Banks will continue to handle return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS Louisiana Tech should expect another season of bowl-eligibility, but winning Conference USA in its first year in the league under a new coach may be too much. The offense has potential with the explosive Dixon at running back, but the offensive line and quarterback positions are still question marks. The schedule is not overly challenging, with the toughest league games coming late in the year. So if the newcomers can get acclimated, Louisiana Tech may find itself playing in some very meaningful league games in November.

KENNETH DIXON

THE QUOTE

"(The new staff) is going to try to do something similar offensively, but it's going to be tough. They have to replace so many guys."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (1)

WR	5	D.J. Banks (Sr.)	2	Jaydrick DeClouette (Fr.)
WR	36	Hunter Lee (Jr.)	82	Travis Reyes (Jr.)
WR	19	Andrew Guillot (Sr.)	80	Jon Greenwalt (Sr.)
WR	3	Paul Turner (So.)	1	Richie Casey (Sr.)
LT	78	Mitchell Bell (Jr.)	77	Jens Danielson (Jr.)
LG	74	Larry Banks (Sr.)	68	Josh Robinson (So.)
C	79	Alec Davis (Sr.)	62	Joseph Brunson (So.)
RG	**66**	**Matt Shepperd (Jr.)**	65	Richard Greenwalt (Jr.)
RT	72	Jeremy Graffree (Sr.)	75	Darrell Brown (Fr.)
QB	16	Scotty Young (Jr.)	14	Ryan Higgins (Fr.)
RB	28	Kenneth Dixon (So.)	26	Tevin King (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	22	Kendrick James (Sr.)	**98**	**Vontarrius Dora (So.)**
DT	**94**	**Shakeil Lucas (Sr.)**	45	Vernon Butler (So.)
DT	70	Justin Ellis (Sr.)	90	DeAngelo Brooks (Jr.)
DE	**41**	**IK Enemkpali (Sr.)**	84	Andre Taylor (Jr.)
LB	32	Mitch Villemez (Jr.)	48	Andre Wiggins (So.)
LB	6	Beau Fitte (So.)	24	Nick Thomason (Jr.)
CB	15	Bryson Abraham (So.)	21	Adairius Barnes (So.)
CB	**13**	**Le'Vander Liggins (Jr.)**	17	Tra'Vez Taylor (So.)
S	16	Jabari Prewitt (Jr.)	19	Ronnie Fields (Jr.)
FS	11	Lloyd Grogan (Fr.)	35	C.J. Cleveland (So.)
SS	23	Kentrell Brice (So.)	29	Kendall Hayes (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jonathan Barnes (Fr.)	KR	5	D.J. Banks (Sr.)
P	Logan McPherson (Fr.)	PR	5	D.J. Banks (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zach Griffith, 6-3-31-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Kenneth Dixon, 200 att., 1,194 yds., 27 TDs
Receiving: D.J. Banks, 33 rec., 434 yds., 2 TDs
Tacktes: Le'Vander Liggins, 50
Sacks: IK Enemkpali, 6
Interceptions: Le'Vander Liggins, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Louisiana Tech SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **110**

C-USA WEST PREDICTION **6**

North Texas

MEAN GREEN

DEREK THOMPSON

OFFENSE Derek Thompson became the first multi-year starting quarterback for North Texas in a decade last season, and he should make it three years in a row in 2013. That adds stability to an offense already returning a solid stable of running backs and a superb offensive line. Three starters are back for a line that allowed an FBS-low six sacks last season. UNT relied on a trio of running backs last season, and the same will likely be true again. Purdue transfer Reggie Pegram will join returning backs Brandin Byrd and Antoinne Jimmerson.

"We had three different guys rush for 500 yards last season, and we may have to do it again," UNT coach Dan McCarney says. "I can't say we have first-round draft picks, but we've got good Division I running backs that can do the job."

UNT would like to get some rushing production from its quarterback, but that's not Thompson's forte. Kansas transfer Brock Berglund, often compared to Johnny Manziel out of high school, came to UNT as a dual-threat option to push Thompson. But injuries limited Berglund in spring practice, and he's far behind in the playbook. An upgrade at receiver is sorely needed. Texas transfer Darius Terrell and previously injured Brelan Chancellor are among the possible remedies for a lackluster unit.

7

UNT has seven wins in two years in Apogee Stadium, its best two-year stretch at home since 2003-04.

DEFENSE Linebackers Zach Orr and Derek Akunne will be among the best duos in the conference after racking up nearly 200 tackles combined last season. The entire secondary returns, led by all-conference cornerback Zac Whitfield.

There are few issues in the back seven, but that's countered by several concerns on the defensive front. The line lacked explosive plays last year, and its lone productive pass-rusher, K.C. Obi, graduated. Injuries both in 2012 and this spring hampered optimism. Ryan Boutwell and Brandon McCoy missed spring with injuries, and Richard Abbe missed time last season. The trio combined for only two sacks in 2012. Junior college transfer Quenton Brown also tore his ACL in spring.

"We need to make major improvements up front, but with all these offseason surgeries, it makes it hard," McCarney says. "The defensive line makes all the difference. A good defensive line disrupts everything, it collapses the pocket, it dictates the game. We have to get more of that."

SPECIALISTS Chancellor, a senior, owns the top two single-season kick returning yardage totals in program history. He and Carlos Harris will handle kick and punt returns. Senior Zach Olen is a seasoned kicker with 32 career field goals, including a 9-of-9 clip on attempts of less than 40 yards last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The schedule sets up reasonably well. North Texas plays its season opener at home for the first time since 2001, as Idaho comes to Denton. And in their first year in Conference USA, the Mean Green will play three straight home games against Texas schools with late-season contests versus Rice, UTEP and UTSA.

"The first game being at home is a big deal," McCarney says. "Every offseason, we sell our program and all the excitement around it, and then the first thing we do is get on a plane to play somewhere else. But this year is our 100-year celebration. We have intrastate rivalries starting up. And the program is getting where we want it to be. There are good vibes in the air here."

Regardless of the optimism, UNT remains a solid yet unspectacular team. The Mean Green went 4–8 last season and have shown moderate improvement under McCarney, and they seem to be on the same steady path in C-USA this season.

THE QUOTE

"Their defense needs to improve, but I think they were relatively young there last year. So they have to be better defensively."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	Carlos Harris (So.)	11	Darius Terrell (Jr.)
WR	80	Darnell Smith (Sr.)	17	Lynrick Pleasant (Sr.)
WR	3	Brelan Chancellor (Sr.)	83	Carl Caldwell (Sr.)
LT	71	**Antonio Johnson (Jr.)**	72	Ryan Rentfro (Fr.)
LG	57	**Mason Y'Barbo (Jr.)**	77	Travis Ellard (So.)
C	50	Kaydon Kirby (Fr.)	53	Shawn McKinney (Jr.)
RG	62	**Cyril Lemon (Jr.)**	65	Micah Thompson (So.)
RT	64	LaChris Anyiam (Sr.)	70	Justin Manu (Jr.)
TE	86	**Drew Miller (Sr.)**	89	Daniel Prior (Sr.)
QB	7	**Derek Thompson (Sr.)**	5	Andrew McNulty (So.)
RB	24	**Brandin Byrd (Sr.)**	22	Antoinne Jimmerson (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	42	Chad Polk (So.)	93	**Brandon McCoy (Sr.)**
DT	97	Richard Abbe (Sr.)	70	Sir Calvin Wallace (Fr.)
DT	95	Alexander Lincoln (Jr.)	91	Austin Orr (So.)
DE	44	Aaron Bellazin (Sr.)	56	Malik Dilonga (Fr.)
OLB	7	**Derek Akunne (Jr.)**	92	LaJaylin Smith (So.)
MLB	35	**Zachary Orr (Sr.)**	50	Robert Lewis (Jr.)
OLB	11	Will Wright (Sr.)	18	Jamal Marshall (So.)
CB	6	**Hilbert Jackson (Sr.)**	13	James Jones (Jr.)
CB	23	**Zac Whitfield (So.)**	31	Kenny Buyers (So.)
SS	27	**Lairamie Lee (Jr.)**	1	Zed Evans (Sr.)
FS	8	**Marcus Trice (Sr.)**	20	Andrew Tucker (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Zach Olen (Sr.)	KR	3	Brelan Chancellor (Sr.)
P	40	Blake Macek (Fr.)	PR	3	Brelan Chancellor (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Derek Thompson, 372-214-2,649-14, 14 TDs

Rushing: Brandin Byrd, 205 att., 860 yds., 4 TDs

Receiving: Darnell Smith, 28 rec,. 379 yds., 2 TDs

Tackles: Zachary Orr, 108

Sacks: Aaron Bellazin, 5

Interceptions: Zac Whitfield, 3

[#] Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Cal Sports/AP Images

Head Coach: Dan McCarney
Record at School: 9-15 (2 years)
Career Record: 65-100 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Canales
Defensive Coordinator: John Skladany
Denton, TX
Apogee Stadium (30,850)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (C-USA)

August		
31	Idaho	
September		
7	at Ohio	
14	Ball State	
21	at Georgia	
October		
5	at Tulane	
12	Middle Tennessee	
19	at Louisiana Tech	
26	at Southern Miss	
November		
2	Rice	
9	UTEP	
23	UTSA	
30	at Tulsa	

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Sept. 1	at LSU	L	14–41
Sept. 8	Texas Southern	W	34–7
Sept. 15	at Kansas State	L	21–35
Sept. 22	Troy	L	7–14
Sept. 29	at Florida Atlantic	W	20–14
Oct. 6	at Houston	L	21–44
Oct. 16	UL Lafayette	W	30–23
Oct. 27	at Middle Tennessee	L	21–38
Nov. 3	Arkansas State	L	19–37
Nov. 10	South Alabama	W	24–14
Nov. 17	at ULM	L	16–42
Nov. 24	at Western Kentucky	L	24–25

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cody Nelson, OL, Keller, TX
2. Sed Ellis, LB, Paris, TX
3. Chris Loving, TE, Klein, TX*
4. Dominick Walker, OL, Sugar Land, TX
5. Chad Davis, DB, Richmond, TX
6. Quenton Brown, DL, Tucker, GA*
7. Harrison Sorge, OL, Wichita Falls, TX
8. Darvin Kidsy, WR, Missouri City, TX
9. Sydrick Moore, DT, Van, TX
10. John Schilleci, DB, Denton, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	20.9 ppg	8	103
Rushing	173.1 ypg	5	51
Passing	219.1 ypg	7	73
Total	392.2 ypg	6	67
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	27.8 ppg	3	61
Rushing	163.3 ypg	6	64
Passing	251.5 ypg	4	87
Total	414.8 ypg	5	75
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+1	+0.08	4	55

RICE

OWLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **81**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: David Bailiff
Record at School: 30-44 (6 years)
Career Record: 51-59 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Reagan
Defensive Coordinator: Chris Thurmond
Houston, TX
Rice Stadium (47,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 6-2 (C-USA)

August		
31	at Texas A&M	
September		
14	Kansas	
21	Houston	
28	Florida Atlantic	
October		
5	at Tulsa	
12	at UTSA	
19	at New Mexico State	
26	UTEP	
November		
2	at North Texas	
16	Louisiana Tech	
23	at UAB	
30	Tulane	

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	UCLA		L	24-49
Sept.	8	at Kansas		W	25-24
Sept.	15	at Louisiana Tech		L	37-56
Sept.	22	Marshall	(ot)	L	51-54
Sept.	29	vs. Houston %		L	14-35
Oct.	6	at Memphis		L	10-14
Oct.	13	UTSA		W	34-14
Oct.	20	at Tulsa		L	24-28
Oct.	27	Southern Miss		W	44-17
Nov.	3	at Tulane		W	49-47
Nov.	17	SMU		W	36-14
Nov.	24	at UTEP		W	33-24
Dec.	29	vs. Air Force #		W	33-14

%Reliant Stadium #Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. D.J. Green, OLB, Mesquite, TX
2. Kenneth Thompson, G, Houston, TX
3. Cole Thomas, DB, Katy, TX
4. Peter Godber, G, Toronto, ON
5. Anthony Canady II, CB, Mesquite, TX
6. Nate German, QB, Cypress, TX
7. Cole Hunt, TE, El Campo, TX
8. Nick Uretsky, LB, San Antonio, TX
9. Jowan Davis, RB, Sealy, TX
10. Brian Womac, DE, Houston, TX

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	31.9 ppg	5	41
Rushing	201.8 ypg	2	29
Passing	225.6 ypg	7	67
Total	427.4 ypg	4	44
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	30.0 ppg	5	77
Rushing	190.7 ypg	7	87
Passing	235.2 ypg	4	63
Total	425.9 ypg	5	81
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+5	+0.38	3	39

OFFENSE Although Driphus Jackson was outstanding in relief of injured Taylor McHargue in the Owls' Armed Forces Bowl rout of Air Force, completing 15-of-21 passes for 264 yards and two scores, McHargue remains Rice's starting quarterback. Owls coach David Bailiff points to the senior's leadership and command of the team, but he mentions that Rice does have "two good quarterbacks." McHargue is a stalwart, but he needs to be more accurate and improve on last year's total of 12 TD passes.

If junior wide receiver Jordan Taylor carries over his momentum from the bowl game, when he caught nine passes for 153 yards and scored three times, he'll help McHargue immensely. Taylor led the Owls with 57 catches last year. Senior Donte Moore is expected to be another prime target, as is junior Mario Hull, who missed last year with an injury after being a Freshman All-America punt returner in 2011.

The entire line that started the bowl game returns, as do all of its backups. Those performers helped Rice average a robust 201.8 yards per game on the ground. Senior left tackle Jon Hodde is a stalwart. Senior center Nate Richards became an immediate leader last year after transferring in from the junior college ranks, and tackle Drew Carroll could be the best of the bunch. They'll open holes for seniors Charles Ross (800 yards) and Turner Peterson (591). McHargue (667) is a big threat to run as well.

342.8

The Rice defense gave up an average of 342.8 yards over the last eight games. In the first five, the Owls were torched for 559.0 yards per game.

DEFENSE Ten starters return on this side of the ball, but the unit needs to improve after giving up 30.0 points and 425.9 yards per game last year. The improvement will have to start up front, where opponents had great success running the ball, averaging 4.9 yards per carry. Senior Cody Bauer is a solid end who made 12 tackles behind the line last year, and senior tackle Hosam Shahin had 9.5 tackles for a loss. Bailiff expects junior Stuart Mouchantaf to have a big impact at tackle this year.

Senior strong-side linebacker Cameron Nwosu was second on the team last year with 92 tackles and teams with junior James Radcliffe (42 stops) in a solid tandem in the Owls' 4-2-5 configuration. Senior "KAT" defensive back Paul Porras had a team-high 93 tackles and supports the run-stopping efforts well.

There is plenty of talent in the defensive backfield, although Rice will work to improve on last year's 11 interceptions. Even though senior corner Phillip Gaines didn't pick off a pass, he broke up 18 of them. Gaines, classmate Alex Francis, and junior Bryce Callahan comprise a great collection of corner talent. Expect juniors Julius White and Gabe Baker to handle the safety work.

SPECIALISTS Senior placekicker Chris Boswell may or may not have the biggest leg in the nation, but anybody who goes 6-of-8 from beyond 50 yards, with four made field goals of 53 yards or longer, is in the discussion. Redshirt freshman Cameron Decell gets the punting job. The return game has some experience but needs to be more productive.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Owls won their last five games to finish 2012 with a 7–6 mark, and Bailiff believes there will be a carryover this season. The offense has weapons and a solid offensive front, while 10 returning starters should be enough to help Rice be more formidable on defense.

Having McHargue around helps, because of his leadership, but if the Owls want to be more than just a hair over .500, they must be more effective at every position. Rice showed it could do that in the bowl win. It's time to do it for 12 games.

CAMERON NWOSU

THE QUOTE

"Their quarterback (Taylor McHargue) will be a senior, and I think he's a viable (C-USA) Player of the Year candidate."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	83	Andre Gautreaux (Sr.)	1	Mario Hull (Jr.)
WR	87	Connor Cella (Fr.)	86	Reid Mitchell (Fr.)
WR	**81**	**Donte Moore (Sr.)**	8	Derek Brown (So.)
WR	15	Jordan Taylor (Jr.)	4	Dennis Parks (So.)
LT	**79**	**Jon Hodde (Sr.)**	65	Matt Wofford (So.)
LG	**55**	**Nico Carlson (Jr.)**	71	Connor Patterson (Fr.)
C	**53**	**Nate Richards (Sr.)**	52	Spencer Stanley (Fr.)
RG	77	Andrew Reue (So.)	60	Matt Simonette (Jr.)
RT	**76**	**Drew Carroll (Jr.)**	**74**	**Caleb Williams (So.)**
QB	**16**	**Taylor McHargue (Sr.)**	6	Driphus Jackson (So.)
RB	**28**	**Charles Ross (Sr.)**	26	Turner Petersen (Sr.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	**90**	**Cody Bauer (Sr.)**	13	Tanner Leland (Sr.)
DT	**93**	**Hosam Shahin (Sr.)**	50	Cody Henessee (So.)
DT	92	Stuart Mouchantaf (Jr.)	**56**	**Christian Covington (So.)**
DE	40	Zach Patt (Jr.)	96	Dylan Klare (Jr.)
SLB	**57**	**Cameron Nwosu (Sr.)**	42	Michael Kutzler (Sr.)
WLB	**10**	**James Radcliffe (Jr.)**	46	Nick Elder (So.)
KAT	**24**	**Paul Porras (Sr.)**	33	Austin Laudenschlager (So.)
CB	**15**	**Phillip Gaines (Sr.)**	**29**	**Bryce Callahan (Jr.)**
CB	19	Alex Francis (Sr.)	22	Ryan Pollard (So.)
S	27	Gabe Baker (Jr.)	**2**	**Malcolm Hill (Jr.)**
S	**7**	**Julius White (Jr.)**	11	Garrett Fuhrman (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	9	Chris Boswell (Sr.)	**KR**	35	Luke Turner (So.)
P	39	Cameron Decell (Fr.)	**PR**	4	Dennis Parks (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor McHargue, 325-194-2,209-5, 12 TDs
Rushing: Charles Ross, 147 att., 800 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Taylor, 57 rec., 826 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Paul Porras, 93
Sacks: Cody Bauer, 5.5
Interceptions: 4 players tied with 2

[#] Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Anthony Vasser/Rice Sports Information

Tulane
GREEN WAVE

RYAN GRANT

OFFENSE The Green Wave should be better offensively, even though quarterback Ryan Griffin is gone. The reason for this is simple: They figure to be better up front than in 2012, when they allowed 34 sacks, because they are a year older and a year stronger. Tulane could field five offensive linemen with starting experience. Mike Henry, Rio Mares, Sean Donnelly and Adam Skidmore each started at least 11 times last fall, and Zach Morgan, a veteran with 27 starts, returns after missing last season because of a shoulder injury.

Who replaces Griffin is the big question, but the good news is that each of the candidates played well in the spring, and the rest of the skill positions are filled with talent.

Junior college transfer Nick Montana, the son of NFL Hall of Famer Joe Montana, arrived in time for spring practice and was impressive. Montana originally signed with Washington but transferred to Mount San Antonio (Calif.) College after one season with the Huskies. The quarterback competition also includes sophomore Devin Powell, who started twice as a true freshman when Griffin was injured. Both give Tulane a dual-threat option — which Griffin didn't. But the most important thing for the quarterback to do is to get the football to a deep and talented group of receivers and to hand the ball off to standout running back Orleans Darkwa.

4.7

Tulane averaged only 4.7 yards per play last season to rank last in Conference USA and 115th nationally.

Senior Ryan Grant, who had 76 catches as a junior, is a returning All-C-USA selection and the top receiving threat. Darkwa is one of the premier running backs in the conference, provided he can remain healthy. The 6'0", 210-pound senior has more than 2,000 career yards but played in only nine games last season because of a variety of injuries.

DEFENSE It's not hard to find the strength of a defense that struggled mightily in 2012. Tulane's secondary is filled with experience and ability. Cornerback Lorenzo Doss was a Freshman All-America selection last season, while safety Darion Monroe was chosen to the C-USA All-Freshman team. Jordan Batiste also returns after starting as a true freshman. Monroe, the team leader with 96 tackles last season, could be the key player on the Green Wave defense.

Tulane also has potential to be very good up front with defensive end Julius Warmsley, who has All-C-USA ability, anchoring the line along with Kenny Welcome and Chris Davenport, a 6'4", 330-pound graduate transfer from LSU who is especially intriguing.

Tulane is small but fast at linebacker. Senior Dominique Robertson is a three-year letterman who was named the Defensive MVP of spring practice. He'll lead the way from the middle linebacker spot and is flanked by veterans Matthew Bailey and Kyle Davis. Senior Zach Davis, who will back up Robertson, was second on the team with 78 tackles last season.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Cairo Santos returns after winning the 2012 Lou Groza Award. He made all 21 field goal attempts, including 12 from beyond 40 yards. The return game didn't have much spark last season and needs improvement.

FINAL ANALYSIS Curtis Johnson was 2–10 in his maiden season as a college head coach. It was a difficult year, even discounting the 10 losses, since the toughest thing he faced was the terrifying spinal cord injury suffered by senior safety Devon Walker. Johnson had to hold his team together while working through his own grief over Walker's devastating injury.

Now Johnson prepares for his second season with a roster that should be improved. If Montana or Powell plays well at quarterback and Darkwa remains healthy, the Green Wave could double their win total from a year ago.

THE QUOTE

"They just weren't very good, and they have a tough time recruiting. They have to fight a lot of schools there for kids in that area."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	80	**Justyn Shackleford (Jr.)**	82	Xavier Rush (Jr.)
WR	3	**Ryan Grant (Sr.)**	9	Wilson Van Hooser (Sr.)
LT	78	Todd Jacquet (So.)	75	Arturo Uzdavinis (So.)
LG	65	Zach Morgan (Sr.)	74	**Adam Skidmore (Jr.)**
C	64	**Mike Henry (Sr.)**	65	Zach Morgan (Sr.)
RG	72	**Rio Mares (Sr.)**	61	Colton Hanson (Fr.)
RT	70	**Sean Donnelly (Jr.)**	76	Nate Skold (So.)
TE	88	**Matt Marfisi (Jr.)**	81	Sydie London (So.)
QB	11	Nick Montana (Jr.)	1	Devin Powell (So.)
HB	24	Dante Butler (Jr.)	25	Josh Rounds (So.)
RB	26	Orleans Darkwa (Sr.)	33	Lazedrick Thompson (Fr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	48	Royce LaFrance (So.)	41	**Aaron Bryant (So.)**
DT	93	**Kenny Welcome (Jr.)**	99	Calvin Thomas (So.)
NT	94	Chris Davenport (Sr.)	96	Corey Redwine (So.)
DE	92	**Julius Warmsley (Sr.)**	90	Wendell Beckwith (Sr.)
SLB	45	**Matthew Bailey (Jr.)**	47	Carmen DeJean (Jr.)
MLB	56	Dominique Robertson (Sr.)	57	**Zach Davis (Sr.)**
WLB	21	Kyle Davis (Sr.)	40	Taylor Bullock (Jr.)
CB	14	**Jordan Batiste (So.)**	13	Derrick Strozier (Sr.)
CB	6	**Lorenzo Doss (So.)**	22	Jordan Sullen (Sr.)
SS	5	Brandon LeBeau (Jr.)	35	Sam Scofield (Jr.)
FS	2	**Darion Monroe (So.)**	37	L.J. Parker (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Cairo Santos (Sr.)	KR	24	Dante Butler (Jr.)
P	83	Peter Piceretti (So.)	PR	2	Darion Monroe (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Devin Powell, 57-30-255-3, 1 TD
Rushing: Rob Kelley, 81 att., 286 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Ryan Grant, 76 rec., 1,149 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Darion Monroe, 96
Sacks: Julius Warmsley, 3
Interceptions: Lorenzo Doss, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Stephen Lance Dennee/Icon SMI

Head Coach: Curtis Johnson
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 2-10 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Price
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Jon Sumrall, Lionel Washington
New Orleans, LA
Mercedes-Benz Superdome (69,703)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (C-USA)

August	
31	Jackson State
September	
7	South Alabama
12	at Louisiana Tech
21	at Syracuse
28	at UL Monroe
October	
5	North Texas
12	East Carolina
26	Tulsa
November	
2	at Florida Atlantic
9	at UTSA
23	UTEP
30	at Rice

2012 RESULTS (2-10, 2-6)

Sept.	1	Rutgers	L	12–24
Sept.	8	at Tulsa	L	10–45
Sept.	22	Ole Miss	L	0–39
Sept.	29	UL Monroe	L	10–63
Oct.	6	at UL Lafayette	L	13–41
Oct.	13	SMU	W	27–26
Oct.	20	at UTEP	L	20–24
Oct.	27	UAB	W	55–45
Nov.	3	Rice	L	47–49
Nov.	10	at Memphis	L	23–37
Nov.	17	East Carolina	L	23–28
Nov.	24	at Houston	L	17–40

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kenneth Santa Marina, OL, New Orleans, LA
2. Edward Williams, LB, New Orleans, LA
3. Nick Montana, QB, San Francisco, CA*
4. Sherman Badie, RB, New Orleans, LA
5. Brandon Godfrey, OL, Kenner, LA
6. Chris Taylor, OL, Baker, LA
7. Tanzel Smart, DT, Baton Rouge, LA
8. Ade Aruna, DE, LaPorte, IN
9. Tristan Cooper, DB, Tampa, FL
10. Eldrick Washington, DE, Harvey, LA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	21.4 ppg	10	97
Rushing	39.6 ypg	12	119
Passing	279.9 ypg	4	33
Total	319.5 ypg	11	109
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	38.4 ppg	11	115
Rushing	222.9 ypg	12	114
Passing	259.7 ypg	9	95
Total	482.6 ypg	11	114
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-9	-0.75	10	101

Tulsa
GOLDEN HURRICANE

NATIONAL FORECAST **50**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Bill Blankenship
Record at School: 19-8 (2 years)
Career Record: 19-8 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Peterson
Defensive Coordinator: Brent Guy
Tulsa, OK
H.A. Chapman Stadium (30,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 7-1 (C-USA)

August		
29	at Bowling Green	
September		
7	Colorado State	
14	at Oklahoma	
26	Iowa State	
October		
5	Rice	
12	at UTEP	
26	at Tulane	
November		
2	UTSA	
9	at East Carolina	
14	Marshall	
23	at Louisiana Tech	
30	North Texas	

2012 RESULTS (11-3, 7-1)

Sept. 1	at Iowa State		L	23-38
Sept. 8	Tulane		W	45-10
Sept. 15	Nicholls State		W	66-16
Sept. 22	Fresno State		W	27-26
Sept. 29	at UAB		W	49-42
Oct. 6	at Marshall		W	45-38
Oct. 11	UTEP		W	33-11
Oct. 20	Rice		W	28-24
Nov. 3	at Arkansas		L	15-19
Nov. 10	at Houston		W	41-7
Nov. 17	UCF		W	23-21
Nov. 24	at SMU		L	27-35
Dec. 1	UCF %	(ot)	W	33-27
Dec. 31	vs. Iowa State #		W	31-17

%C-USA Championship #Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Rob Boyd, OL, Vian, OK
2. Will Barrow, DB, Dallas, TX
3. Dalton Rodriguez, DE, Tulsa, OK
4. Frankie Davis, DE, Broken Arrow, OK
5. C.J. Gooden, LB, Ashdown, AR
6. Chris Hall, RB, Tulsa, OK
7. Joe Bean, DB, Hooker, OK
8. Blake Mejia, OL, Tulsa, OK
9. Ray Crockett, DB, Southlake, TX
10. Jaylen Lowe, ATH, Owasso, OK

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	34.7 ppg	3	30
Rushing	245.7 ypg	1	9
Passing	211.4 ypg	10	83
Total	457.1 ypg	3	28
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	23.6 ppg	2	35
Rushing	119.6 ypg	2	16
Passing	228.2 ypg	3	54
Total	347.8 ypg	1	25
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+3	+0.21	4	48

OFFENSE Tulsa won the 2012 Conference USA championship with a potent ground game. During the Todd Graham years (2007-10), the Golden Hurricane featured a pass-happy offense that set school records but never captured a league title. Bill Blankenship's change in offensive philosophy paid off in his first two seasons.

Last year, Tulsa was a top-10 rushing offense nationally after tailbacks Trey Watts and Ja'Terian Douglas combined to run for 2,044 yards. The pair helped TU storm to a C-USA title game win over UCF and a Liberty Bowl victory over Iowa State, with Watts being named MVP of both contests.

Quarterback Cody Green, a transfer from Nebraska, returns for his senior year. He played with a throwing shoulder injury for much of his first season at Tulsa and finished with 17 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions. His top two receivers return — Keyarris Garrett (67 catches, 845 yards) and Jordan James (41 catches, 568 yards).

The Hurricane's offensive line was a strength last season, paving the way for the running game while only allowing nine sacks. The unit will be anchored by left guard Jake Alexander, right tackle Stetson Burnett and right guard Gabe Moyer.

DEFENSE The Golden Hurricane possessed one of the nation's most aggressive defenses last season. Tulsa finished with 110 tackles for a loss and 53 sacks. Both statistics were school records and among the top three in the country, as Tulsa has grasped the attacking style of third-year defensive coordinator Brent Guy.

70
Ja'Terian Douglas had three rushes of 70 yards or more last season, tying with three other players for the most in the nation.

The goal this season will be rebuilding a defense that loses nine starters. The unit will be led by senior linebacker Shawn Jackson, who is the leading returning tackler after getting 88 stops last season. The linebackers are expected to be the nucleus in 2013, with Trent Martin and Mitchell Osborne having significant experience. DeWitt Jennings is another one to watch at the position.

The defensive line will be rebuilt after the entire group graduated last season. Defensive ends Brentom Todd and Chris Hummingbird will get the first looks at a position that produced 33 sacks last year. Defensive tackles Derrick Luetjen and Jack Jewell are being asked to plug the middle.

The secondary will be led by Marco Nelson, a third-year starter at safety. Nelson will be joined at safety by Michael Mudoh. Darrell Williams and Darnell Walker will be tested at cornerback by Conference USA's pass-happy offenses.

SPECIALISTS Field goals and extra points were a fiasco at times last season. Tulsa often kept the offense on the field on fourth down inside the red zone instead of attempting a field goal. Kicker Daniel Schwarz missed more PATs (seven) than field goals (six) in his freshman year, but did make five of his last six field goal attempts. Punter Cole Way is looking to improve his average of 39.1 yards in 2012. Watts is a dynamic returner who had a punt return and kickoff return for a score.

FINAL ANALYSIS Tulsa has quietly become a solid football program. The Golden Hurricane have won 10-plus games in four of their last six seasons and have been to a bowl game in seven of the past eight years. In his second season, Blankenship led the school to its first C-USA title since 2005 and second top-25 ranking in three seasons.

Blankenship often said in the spring that maintaining the championship level is more difficult than chasing a title. He has challenged his team to repeat in its final season in Conference USA before it leaves for the American Athletic Conference in 2014.

For that to happen, Tulsa must identify some new playmakers on defense and continue to have success running the ball on offense.

TREY WATTS

THE QUOTE

"They are one of the most physical teams we've played, and they rushed for over 300 yards on a Big 12 defense in the bowl game last year."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**1**	**Keyarris Garrett (Jr.)**	80	Conner Floyd (So.)
WR	**12**	**Jordan James (Sr.)**	4	Keevan Lucas (Fr.)
WR	**26**	**Thomas Roberson (Jr.)**	11	Derek Patterson (So.)
LT	76	Garrett Stafford (So.)	75	Davis Walton (Jr.)
LG	**77**	**Jake Alexander (Jr.)**	63	Chris Wallace (Fr.)
C	57	Dylan Foxworth (Fr.)	52	Billy Lafortune (So.)
RG	65	Gabe Moyer (Sr.)	62	Alec Henry (Jr.)
RT	**74**	**Stetson Burnett (Sr.)**	68	Garrett Gladd (So.)
QB	**7**	**Cody Green (Sr.)**	9	Dane Evans (Fr.)
HB	41	Cody Wilson (Sr.)	48	Colby Scott (So.)
TB	**22**	**Trey Watts (Sr.)**	**25**	**Ja'Terian Douglas (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (2)

DE	97	Brentom Todd (Jr.)	94	Damian Gibson (Fr.)
DT	98	Jack Jewell (Sr.)	70	Jerry Uwaezuoke (Fr.)
DT	99	Derrick Luetjen (So.)	95	Hayden Carman (Fr.)
DE	46	Chris Hummingbird (Jr.)	54	Derrick Alexander (So.)
LB	33	Mitchell Osborne (Jr.)	30	Luke Snider (Jr.)
LB	40	Trent Martin (So.)	43	Donnell Hawkins (Sr.)
LB	**55**	**Shawn Jackson (Sr.)**	27	DeWitt Jennings (Sr.)
CB	23	Darrell Williams (Fr.)	9	Dwight Dobbins (Jr.)
CB	24	Darnell Walker (Fr.)	7	Johnell Celistan (Fr.)
S	22	Michael Mudoh (So.)	5	Jeremy Brady (Fr.)
S	**20**	**Marco Nelson (Sr.)**	39	Marcus Pate (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	3	Daniel Schwarz (So.)	**KR**	22	Trey Watts (Sr.)
P	28	Cole Way (Jr.)	**PR**	22	Trey Watts (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cody Green, 419-228-2,592-11, 17 TDs
Rushing: Trey Watts, 186 att., 1,108 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Keyarris Garrett, 67 rec., 845 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Shawn Jackson, 88
Sacks: Shawn Jackson, 3
Interceptions: Marco Nelson, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tulsa SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **99**

C-USA WEST PREDICTION **4**

UTEP MINERS

JORDAN LESLIE

THE QUOTE

"It just looked like they didn't have the players to do what they wanted. So that's what has to change for them this year."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**9**	**Jordan Leslie (Jr.)**	11	Malcolm Trail (So.)
WR	**15**	**Devin Patterson (So.)**	14	Ian Hamilton (Sr.)
LT	**58**	**Brander Craighead (Jr.)**	65	Mike Amdall (Jr.)
LG	**62**	**Kyle Brown (So.)**	79	Corin Brooks (So.)
C	59	Paulo Melendez (Jr.)	60	Eric Lee (So.)
RG	**69**	**Jerel Watkins (Jr.)**	66	Wayne Frazier (Jr.)
RT	67	Christian Harper (So.)	72	Blake Bullard (Sr.)
TE	82	Kevin Perry (Jr.)	87	Eric Tomlinson (Jr.)
QB		Jameill Showers (Jr.)	10	Blaire Sullivan (So.)
FB	20	Josh Bell (Jr.)		Cortez Harris (Fr.)
HB	**25**	**Nathan Jeffery (Jr.)**	29	Autrey Golden (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	18	James Davidson (Sr.)	92	Adam Ayala (Sr.)
DT	**8**	**Marcus Bagley (Sr.)**	54	Silas Firstley (Fr.)
DT	**61**	**Gerrard Reed (Sr.)**	95	Devante Richardson (Fr.)
DE	**33**	**Horace Miller (Sr.)**	43	Roy Robertson (Fr.)
OLB	30	Gage Sharp (So.)	35	Trey Brown (So.)
MLB	11	A.J. Ropati (Sr.)	51	Darnell Murray (So.)
OLB	34	Anthony Puente (So.)	53	DeAndre Little (Jr.)
CB	1	Adrian James (Jr.)	2	Ishamel Harrison (Fr.)
CB	7	Nick Gathrite (Jr.)	27	DaShone Smith (Fr.)
S	24	Richard Spencer (Sr.)	13	Wesley Miller (Jr.)
S	28	Demarcus Kizzie (Fr.)		Jameel Erving (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Steven Valadez (Jr.)	**KR**	29	Autrey Golden (So.)
P	37	Steven Valadez (Jr.)	**PR**	3	Jim Jones (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Carson Meger, 76-46-504-3, 1 TD

Rushing: Nathan Jeffery, 184 att., 897 yds., 7 TDs

Receiving: Jordan Leslie, 51 rec., 973 yds., 6 TDs

Tackles: A.J. Ropati, 58

Sacks: Horace Miller, 6

Interceptions: Shane Huhn, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UTEP SID

OFFENSE A blurry quarterback picture for coach Sean Kugler's first season at UTEP didn't clear up, but it became much more interesting in late February when junior Jameill Showers announced he was transferring from Texas A&M after backing Johnny Manziel in 2012. Showers, who did not start a game during his time in College Station, immediately became the favorite to take over what had been a wide-open quarterback competition. Sophomore Blaire Sullivan, who started two games last year, had been considered the leader during the spring, however.

Whoever ends up under center will lead an otherwise veteran unit, albeit one that is coming off its worst season in almost a decade. The Miners will be transitioning to a two-back offense after nine years of Mike Price's one-back scheme.

The big weapon is junior halfback Nathan Jeffery, who had spectacular moments when healthy last year. Jeffery rushed for 177 yards in the first three quarters of the opener against Oklahoma before sustaining a hamstring injury that nagged him for two months.

91

UTEP ranked 91st nationally in total defense, matching its best finish in that category since 2006.

Three returning offensive line starters — tackle Brander Craighead and guards Jerel Watkins and Kyle Brown — join a veteran (and deep) tight end corps that should be a bigger factor in the passing game this season.

All but one of the receivers return, including last year's statistical leader Jordan Leslie, who averaged 19.1 yards on his 51 catches and scored six touchdowns.

DEFENSE After finally making some tangible improvement last season following six years of misery, the defense now starts over with a new system.

The strength will be up front. The defensive line features five seniors, led by end Horace Miller and tackle Germard Reed.

There is also a star in the back in safety Richard Spencer. After blowing out his knee four games into his senior season — when he had established himself as UTEP's best player — Spencer was granted an extra year by the NCAA. He'll have to anchor a secondary that must replace a pair of graduated cornerbacks. Junior college transfer Nick Gathrite and junior Adrian James, returning from an injury that cost him almost all of 2012, are the likely starters.

Middle linebacker A.J. Ropati is the one veteran linebacker in a corps that will be the defense's biggest question mark.

SPECIALISTS UTEP has traditionally excelled in coverage and in the return game. Look for Autrey Golden to be a weapon on kickoff returns after averaging 28.3 yards a year ago. The Miners, however, went through spring with zero punters, and incumbent placekicker Steven Valadez will have to win a competition to keep that job after an inconsistent 2012. There will be a cattle call of true freshmen to battle for punting duties and to challenge Valadez at kicker. On a new-look team, kicker and punter rate as the biggest mysteries.

FINAL ANALYSIS A softer non-conference schedule (New Mexico, Colorado State and Texas A&M replace Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Ole Miss) and a revamped league schedule that includes five C-USA newcomers should give the Miners a chance to be competitive in Kugler's first year. Much will depend on how quickly the new staff can implement new schemes on both sides of the ball.

A good start in a manageable first four games, when UTEP will probably be leaning on Jeffery and its tight ends, will be a key. An offense that struggled last year returns most of its big names, but a defense that was much better loses most of its starters, resulting in an upcoming season that is hard to predict.

Head Coach: Sean Kugler
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Patrick Higgins
Defensive Coordinator: Scott Stoker
El Paso, TX
Sun Bowl (51,500)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (C-USA)

September	
7	New Mexico
14	at New Mexico State
21	UTSA
28	at Colorado State
October	
5	Louisiana Tech
12	Tulsa
26	at Rice
November	
2	at Texas A&M
9	at North Texas
16	FIU
23	at Tulane
30	at Middle Tennessee

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Sept.	1	Oklahoma	L	7-24
Sept.	8	at Ole Miss	L	10-28
Sept.	15	New Mexico State	W	41-28
Sept.	22	at Wisconsin	L	26-37
Sept.	29	at East Carolina	L	18-28
Oct.	6	SMU	L	0-17
Oct.	11	at Tulsa	L	11-33
Oct.	20	Tulane	W	24-20
Oct.	27	at Houston	L	35-45
Nov.	10	UCF	L	24-31
Nov.	17	at Southern Miss	W	34-33
Nov.	24	Rice	L	24-33

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Darrin Laufasa, FB, Bothell, WA
2. Jaylon Scott, CB, Dallas, TX
3. Dewan Edmonson, DT, Manvell, TX
4. Nick Gathrite, CB, Riverside, CA*
5. Jameel Erving, S, Fontana, CA*
6. Cole Rogers, TE, Dripping Springs, TX
7. Peter Nonu, DT, Long Beach, CA*
8. Devin Cockrell, CB, Port Arthur, TX
9. Mack Leftwich, QB, Wexford, PA
10. Aaron Jones, ATH, El Paso, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	21.2 ppg	11	100
Rushing	148.5 ypg	8	77
Passing	224.0 ypg	9	69
Total	372.5 ypg	8	86
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	4	76
Rushing	194.2 ypg	9	96
Passing	246.0 ypg	7	79
Total	440.2 ypg	9	91
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-4	-0.33	8	82

UTSA ROADRUNNERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 121
C-USA WEST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Larry Coker
Record at School: 12-10 (2 years)
Career Record: 72-25 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Brown
Defensive Coordinator: Neal Neathery
San Antonio, TX
Alamodome (65,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 1-11, 1-7 (C-USA)

August	
31	at New Mexico
September	
7	Oklahoma State
14	at Arizona
21	at UTEP
28	Houston
October	
5	at Marshall
12	Rice
26	UAB
November	
2	at Tulsa
9	Tulane
23	at North Texas
30	Louisiana Tech

2012 RESULTS (8-4, 3-3)

Sept.	1	at South Alabama	W	33–31
Sept.	8	Texas A&M-Commerce	W	27–16
Sept.	15	at Georgia State	W	38–14
Sept.	22	NW Oklahoma State	W	56–3
Sept.	29	at New Mexico State	W	35–14
Oct.	13	at Rice	L	14–34
Oct.	20	San Jose State	L	24–52
Oct.	27	Utah State	L	17–48
Nov.	3	at Louisiana Tech	L	27–51
Nov.	10	McNeese State	W	31–24
Nov.	17	at Idaho	W	34–27
Nov.	24	Texas State	W	38–31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Austin Robinson, QB, Bellaire, TX
2. Jalen Rhodes, RB, Rowlett, TX
3. Tevin Broussard, S, Beaumont, TX*
4. Justyn Eddins, DL, Newhall, CA*
5. Jarveon Williams, RB, Converse, TX
6. Kenneth O'Neal, LB, Grand Prairie, TX
7. Marcos Curry, LB, Round Rock, TX
8. Michael Egwuagu, DB, Pflugerville, TX
9. N'Keal Bailey, DB, Princeton, TX
10. Breyun Owens, OL, Grand Prairie, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC
Scoring	31.2 ppg	4
Rushing	159.3 ypg	4
Passing	231.0 ypg	5
Total	390.3 ypg	4
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**
Scoring	28.8 ppg	3
Rushing	107.8 ypg	1
Passing	271.9 ypg	5
Total	379.8 ypg	3
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**
+14	+1.17	1

OFFENSE An offense that averaged 31.2 points per game remains mostly intact after losing only two starters. Senior quarterback Eric Soza is the undisputed leader of the attack. Soza missed two games in 2012 with a hip injury but still passed for 2,085 yards and 20 touchdowns with only three interceptions. He also rushed for six scores and averaged 5.4 yards per carry.

UTSA has a two-headed tailback in junior David Glasco II and senior Evans Okotcha. Glasco rushed for a team-best 537 yards and five TDs. Okotcha ran for 450 yards and eight scores and had 24 catches for 349 yards, both team-highs.

All of the top receiving threats are back. Junior Kam Jones was the team's second-leading receiver, grabbing 23 receptions for 323 yards. Cole Hubble, a junior tight end, averaged 20.5 yards per catch and had four TD receptions.

The return of four starters on the line — all juniors — is a huge boost after the Roadrunners allowed only seven sacks a season ago. Left guard Scott Inskeep was a second-team All-WAC selection in 2012.

DEFENSE UTSA has plenty of experience on defense with nine starters back. The Roadrunners forced 29 takeaways in their 4-2-5 scheme but allowed 46.3 points per game in their four losses.

45.5
UTSA led the WAC and ranked 32nd nationally last year by converting 45.5 percent on third down.

End Will Ritter (3.5 sacks) is one of three returning starters on the line, which lost second-team All-WAC performer Franky Anaya. Newcomer Justyn Eddins, an end from the junior college ranks, will be expected to bolster a pass rush that produced 23 sacks in 2012.

Last season's leading tackler Brandon Reeves is gone, but fellow second-team All-WAC linebacker Steven Kurfehs had 71 stops and 4.5 sacks a year ago. Joining the senior at linebacker is junior Blake Terry, who started only four of 12 games last season but made 64 tackles.

Starting cornerback Erik Brown was dismissed in December for violating team rules, but the secondary is strong. First-team All-WAC safety Triston Wade, a junior, tied for the team lead with four interceptions and four forced fumbles. Junior safety Nic Johnston (four forced fumbles) is a proven playmaker.

SPECIALISTS After missing seven field goals in 2011, Sean Ianno improved last fall by making 10-of-13 attempts. The junior hit four field goals in a 33–31 win over South Alabama, including the last-second winner from 51 yards. He also made all 21 of his PATs. Junior Kristian Stern is back but averaged only 39.7 yards per punt. The return game is in good hands with junior Kenny Harrison, who averaged 23.3 yards on kickoff returns (long of 84 yards) and 17.3 yards on punt returns (long of 79 yards).

FINAL ANALYSIS Larry Coker, who won a national championship at Miami, needed only one season to work his magic at UTSA. On the heels of the program's 4–6 inaugural campaign, the Roadrunners went 8–4 overall and 3–3 in the WAC to finish fourth in the league. All four of their losses were to teams that were bowl-eligible.

Coker now leads UTSA into the new-look Conference USA. The Roadrunners will not be a full FBS member and bowl eligible until 2014, but they are experienced (51 returning letterwinners) and have intriguing non-conference home games against Oklahoma State and Houston. The schedule will be challenging. After facing four non-FBS opponents last year, UTSA will play no lower-level schools and five teams that were bowl-eligible in 2012. The Roadrunners could surprise again, but the offense must continue to thrive and the defense must do a better job limiting big plays.

ERIC SOZA

THE QUOTE

"They can compete right away at this level. They have two important things: a whole lot of speed and a good quarterback."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**12**	**Earon Holmes (Jr.)**	**84**	Brandon Freeman (Jr.)
WR	**1**	**Kam Jones (Jr.)**	9	Marcellus Mack (Jr.)
WR	88	Aaron Grubb (So.)	15	Josiah Monroe (Jr.)
LT	**76**	**Josh Walker (Jr.)**	65	Michael Roberson (So.)
LG	**79**	**Scott Inskeep (Jr.)**	71	Cody Cole (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Nate Leonard (Jr.)**	63	William Cavanaugh (So.)
RG	**68**	**Cody Harris (Jr.)**	51	Payton Rion (Jr.)
RT	66	Zach Hester (So.)	70	Jordan Gray (So.)
TE	**85**	**Jeremiah Moeller (Sr.)**	83	Cole Hubble (Jr.)
QB	**8**	**Eric Soza (Sr.)**	6	Tucker Carter (Jr.)
TB	**11**	**David Glasco II (Jr.)**	36	Evans Okotcha (Sr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	**43**	**Cody Rogers (Jr.)**		Justyn Eddins (Jr.)
DT	61	Richard Burge (Jr.)	96	Jason Neill (Jr.)
DT	**58**	**Ferrington Macon (Jr.)**	97	Ashaad Mabry (Jr.)
DE	**40**	**Will Ritter (Sr.)**	**90**	**Jarron Harris (Sr.)**
LB	52	Blake Terry (Jr.)	32	Drew Douglas (So.)
LB	**44**	**Steven Kurfehs (Sr.)**	42	Jens Jeters (So.)
CB	**24**	**Darrien Starling (Jr.)**	**20**	**Andre Brown (Jr.)**
CB	4	Crosby Adams (Jr.)	14	Bennett Okotcha (So.)
FS	**7**	**Triston Wade (Jr.)**	23	Tevin Broussard (Jr.)
S	**22**	**Nic Johnston (Jr.)**	21	Charles Wort (So.)
S	3	Cody Berry (Sr.)	10	Brian King (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	92	Sean Ianno (Jr.)	**KR**	18	Kenny Harrison (Jr.)
P	38	Kristian Stern (Jr.)	**PR**	18	Kenny Harrison (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Eric Soza 282-166-2,085-3, 20 TDs
Rushing: David Glasco II, 111 att., 537 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Evans Okotcha, 24 rec., 349 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Triston Wade, 74
Sacks: Steven Kurfehs, 4.5
Interceptions: Triston Wade, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Jeff Huehn/UTSA

MID-AMERICAN PREVIEW

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

PRESEASON ALL-MAC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	JORDAN LYNCH	6-0	216	Sr.	Northern Illinois
RB	DRI ARCHER	5-8	175	Sr.	Kent State
RB	DAVID FLUELLEN	6-0	215	Sr.	Toledo
WR	BERNARD REEDY	5-9	175	Sr.	Toledo
WR	WILLIE SNEED	5-11	193	Jr.	Ball State
TE	ZANE FAKES	6-3	237	Sr.	Ball State
C	ZAC KERIN	6-5	300	Sr.	Toledo
G	DOMINIC FLEWELLYN	6-3	293	Sr.	Bowling Green
G	JORDAN HANSEL	6-4	326	Sr.	Ball State
T	RYAN BROWN	6-6	283	Jr.	Northern Illinois
T	RYAN MCGRATH	6-6	304	Sr.	Ohio

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	JONATHAN NEWSOME	6-3	236	Sr.	Ball State
DE	COLBY WAY	6-4	276	Sr.	Buffalo
DT	ROOSEVELT NIX	5-11	245	Sr.	Kent State
DT	NATHAN OLLIE	6-1	295	Sr.	Ball State
LB	DESMOND BOZEMAN	6-0	220	Sr.	Western Michigan
LB	KHALIL MACK	6-3	245	Sr.	Buffalo
LB	GABE MARTIN	6-1	224	Jr.	Bowling Green
CB	DAYONNE NUNLEY	5-8	181	Jr.	Miami
CB	CAMERON TRUSS	5-10	182	Sr.	Bowling Green
S	BOO BOO GATES	5-11	213	Jr.	Bowling Green
S	JIMMIE WARD	5-11	192	Sr.	Northern Illinois

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JEREMIAH DETMER	5-8	170	Jr.	Toledo
P	BRIAN SCHMIEDEBUSCH	6-4	226	Sr.	Bowling Green
KR	DRI ARCHER	5-8	175	Sr.	Kent State
PR	BERNARD REEDY	5-9	175	Sr.	Toledo

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	KEITH WENNING	6-3	220	Sr.	Ball State
RB	BEAU BLANKENSHIP	5-8	202	Sr.	Ohio
RB	ZURLON TIPTON	6-1	219	Sr.	Central Michigan
WR	NICK HARWELL	6-1	190	Sr.	Miami
WR	JAMIE WILSON	5-11	196	So.	Western Michigan
TE	ALEX BAYER	6-4	253	Jr.	Bowling Green
C	ANDREW NESS	6-3	286	So.	Northern Illinois
G	GREG MANCZ	6-5	295	Jr.	Toledo
G	PAT McSHANE	6-4	301	Sr.	Kent State
T	JAKE OLSON	6-8	305	Sr.	Central Michigan
T	JOHN PRIOR	6-6	303	Sr.	Ohio

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	JAYRONE ELLIOTT	6-3	240	Sr.	Toledo
DE	JOE WINDSOR	6-0	236	Sr.	Northern Illinois
DT	KEN BISHOP	6-1	310	Sr.	Northern Illinois
DT	TED OUELLET	6-3	282	Sr.	Bowling Green
LB	JAMAAL BASS	5-10	225	Jr.	Northern Illinois
LB	JUSTIN CHEROCCI	6-0	231	Jr.	Central Michigan
LB	KEITH MOORE	5-11	220	Sr.	Ohio
CB	CHEATHAM NORRILS	6-0	195	Jr.	Toledo
CB	ERIC PATTERSON	5-10	193	Jr.	Ball State
S	JUSTIN CURRIE	6-2	204	Jr.	Western Michigan
S	LUKE WOLLETT	6-0	195	Sr.	Kent State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MATTHEW SIMS	5-9	181	Sr.	Northern Illinois
P	COLTER JOHNSON	6-4	200	Sr.	UMass
KR	JAMILL SMITH	5-8	140	Sr.	Ball State
PR	JAMIE WILSON	5-11	196	So.	Western Michigan

Scott Walstrom/NIU Media

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. BOWLING GREEN **FALCONS** 8-5, 7-1 MAC
2. OHIO **BOBCATS** 9-3, 6-2 MAC
3. KENT STATE **GOLDEN FLASHES** 6-6, 4-4 MAC
4. BUFFALO **BULLS** 5-7, 4-4 MAC
5. MIAMI **REDHAWKS** 4-8, 4-4 MAC
6. AKRON **ZIPS** 2-10, 1-7 MAC
7. UMASS **MINUTEMEN** 1-11, 0-8 MAC

WEST

1. NORTHERN ILLINOIS **HUSKIES** 10-3, 7-1 MAC
2. BALL STATE **CARDINALS** 9-3, 6-2 MAC
3. TOLEDO **ROCKETS** 8-4, 6-2 MAC
4. WESTERN MICHIGAN **BRONCOS** 6-6, 5-3 MAC
5. CENTRAL MICHIGAN **CHIPPEWAS** 3-9, 2-6 MAC
6. EASTERN MICHIGAN **EAGLES** 1-11, 0-8 MAC

MAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:
NORTHERN ILLINOIS OVER BOWLING GREEN

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Toledo
2. Bowling Green
3. Central Michigan
4. Northern Illinois
5. UMass
6. Miami
7. Western Michigan
8. Akron
9. Eastern Michigan
10. Ball State
11. Kent State
12. Ohio
13. Buffalo

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	9	8	9	11	11	10	12
BALL STATE	2	4	1	5	3	8	7
BOWLING GREEN	5	11	5	3	2	2	1
BUFFALO	11	5	11	7	7	1	4
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	10	6	8	6	9	7	9
EASTERN MICHIGAN	12	9	12	10	12	13	11
KENT STATE	8	1	10	8	1	9	6
MIAMI	7	12	4	12	10	11	10
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	1	7	6	1	4	4	5
OHIO	3	3	7	4	5	3	2
TOLEDO	4	2	2	2	6	5	8
UMASS	13	13	13	13	13	12	13
WESTERN MICHIGAN	6	10	3	9	8	6	3

Akron

ZIPS

NATIONAL FORECAST **114**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Terry Bowden
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 141-73-2 (19 years)
Offensive Coordinator: A.J. Milwee
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Amato
Akron, OH
InfoCision Stadium (30,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 (MAC)

August		
29	at UCF	
September		
7	James Madison	
14	at Michigan	
21	UL Lafayette	
28	at Bowling Green	
October		
5	Ohio	
12	at Northern Illinois	
19	at Miami (Ohio)	
26	Ball State	
November		
2	Kent State	
16	at Massachusetts	
29	Toledo	

2012 RESULTS (1-11, 0-8)

Aug. 30	UCF		L	14-56
Sept. 8	at FIU	(ot)	L	38-41
Sept. 15	Morgan State		W	66-6
Sept. 22	at Tennessee		L	26-47
Sept. 29	Miami (Ohio)		L	49-56
Oct. 6	Bowling Green		L	10-24
Oct. 13	at Ohio		L	28-34
Oct. 20	Northern Illinois		L	7-37
Oct. 27	at Central Michigan		L	14-35
Nov. 3	at Kent State		L	24-35
Nov. 10	Massachusetts		L	14-22
Nov. 20	at Toledo		L	23-35

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Mykel Traylor-Bennett, WR, Reynoldsburg, OH
2. Manny Morgan, RB, Naples, FL
3. Cedric Brittnum, OL, Chicago, IL*
4. Anthony Lauro, ATH, Bradenton, FL
5. Jon Shelby, LB, Brockton, MA*
6. Donte Williams, CB, Greenbelt, MD*
7. Austin Wolf, WR, Lebanon, OH
8. Jerome Lane, LB, Akron, OH
9. Deon'Tae Moore, LB, Akron, OH
10. Zach Guiser, DB, Fayette City, PA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	26.1 ppg	8	77
Rushing	114.4 ypg	11	105
Passing	312.8 ypg	1	16
Total	427.2 ypg	6	45
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	35.7 ppg	11	104
Rushing	211.1 ypg	10	109
Passing	238.9 ypg	7	69
Total	450.0 ypg	8	99
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-14	-1.17	11	110

OFFENSE The Zips, who are trying to avoid their fourth consecutive 1–11 season, have had transient quarterbacks recently who have been one-year wonders or one-year blunders. It's been one-and-done, to steal a phrase from the college basketball world. The master plan is for sophomore Kyle Pohl to take over, grow into the job and be a three-year starter. Pohl played sparingly in 2012 behind transfer Dalton Williams, who was solid in his only season of eligibility in 2012. But second-year coach Terry Bowden is high on Pohl's ability and potential to be a cornerstone for years to come, not just in 2013.

Pohl certainty will have some experienced performers surrounding him. Junior tailback Jawon Chisholm has rushed for 1,914 yards in his first two seasons, leading the team in both 2011 and '12. The receiving corps, a definite area of strength, may not have a superstar, but there is depth. Keith Sconiers, L.T. Smith, Dee Frieson and Jerrod Dillard lead the way, but some younger players will be pushing for time.

The line was considered above average in 2012, but it lost two key seniors. Center Travis Switzer, guard Dylan Brumbaugh and tackle Jarrod Pughsley are the most experienced returnees. Junior college transfer Cedric Brittnum (6'6", 330) provides bulk to a unit lacking overall size.

1,007
On the day of Akron's opener, Aug. 29 at UCF, 1,007 days will have passed since the Zips beat an FBS team (Buffalo 22-14 on Nov. 26, 2010).

DEFENSE The defense has been an area of disappointment for the Zips for years, and only a vast improvement in 2013 can prevent another disaster. The good news is that seven defensive starters return. The bad news is that the Zips ranked 99th nationally in total defense (450.0 ypg) and tied for 104th in scoring defense (35.7 ppg) with those players.

Both starting defensive tackles — Nico Caponi and Cody Grice — are back as part of a front seven that often was pushed around in 2012. A major plus may be end Albert Presley, who was having a solid 2012 before a fractured fibula shelved him for the final five games. The Zips are hopeful he will be 100 percent by the fall.

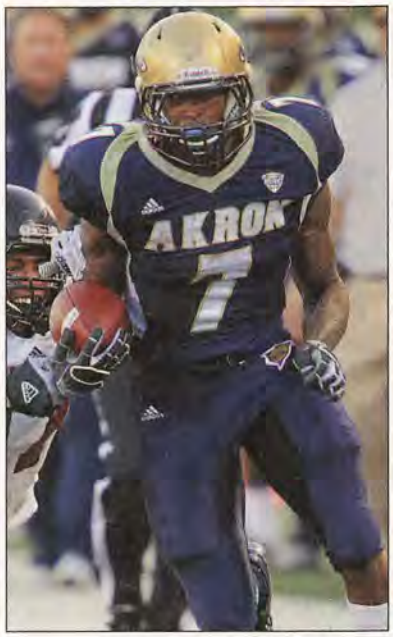
The only returning starting linebacker is Justin March, who had 62 tackles from the outside last season. Junior college transfer Jon Shelby is a big addition. The Zips are hoping that former Washington State linebacker C.J. Mizell will fill a major need, but he must meet NCAA eligibility requirements first, and that is in question.

The secondary is much like the receiving corps — no eye-catching standout but strength in numbers. Malachi Freeman, Johnny Robinson and Anthony Holmes lead the way, but others are close behind.

SPECIALISTS This was a major area of concern headed into last season, but placekicker Robert Stein (9-of-12 on field goals) and punter Zach Paul (40.9-yard average) won jobs and were steady all year. The Zips were last in the country in kickoff returns and 80th in punt returns, so a major upgrade is needed.

FINAL ANALYSIS The second year of the Bowden Era likely will produce the program's eighth consecutive losing record. Road games at Michigan and UCF can dim anyone's lights, and the MAC crossover games are against Northern Illinois, Toledo and Ball State — which could be the best three teams in the West.

The offense was exciting last season in a move to the spread and likely will be a fun to watch again. Pohl must follow Williams' example — get the ball to his playmakers while limiting turnovers. Chisholm needs to approach (or surpass) the 1,000-yard mark, and it would be nice if one or two receivers separated themselves from the pack. The defense is generally undersized and may only be better if some of the returnees improve drastically or are pushed aside by newcomers.



JAWON CHISHOLM

THE QUOTE

"They'll obviously be a ton better this year than they were last year because of a second year of that staff and their schemes."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	35	**Keith Sconiers (Sr.)**	88	Jerrod Dillard (Sr.)
WR	83	**Dee Frieson (Sr.)**	22	Tyler Williams (Jr.)
WR	3	**L.T. Smith (Jr.)**	11	Zach D'Orazio (So.)
LT	71	Quaison Osborne (So.)	62	Rodney Carroll (Fr.)
LG	75	Dylan Brumbaugh (So.)	70	Michael Casimos (Fr.)
C	67	**Travis Switzer (Jr.)**	77	Andrew Bohan (So.)
RG	72	Joe Petrides (Sr.)		Cedric Brittnum (Jr.)
RT	76	**Jarrod Pughsley (Sr.)**	78	Micah Lio (Jr.)
TE	87	Anthony Ritossa (Jr.)	18	Will Fleming (Sr.)
QB	16	Kyle Pohl (So.)	6	Dalton Easton (Fr.)
RB	7	**Jawon Chisholm (Jr.)**	34	Conor Hundley (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	96	**Alfonso Horner (So.)**	42	C.J. James (Sr.)
DT	58	**Nico Caponi (Sr.)**	99	James Price (So.)
DT	36	**Cody Grice (So.)**	40	Austin Bailey (Sr.)
DE	91	Albert Presley (Sr.)	93	Connor Seeman (Sr.)
OLB	45	**Justin March (Jr.)**	55	Jamel Turner (So.)
MLB	59	John Rachal (Fr.)	44	Nick Rossi (Jr.)
OLB	53	Jatavis Brown (So.)	52	Jon Shelby (Jr.)
CB	20	**Malachi Freeman (Sr.)**	31	Emmanuel Lartey (Sr.)
CB	37	Seth Cunningham (Sr.)	29	Bryce Cheek (So.)
S	27	**Johnny Robinson (Jr.)**	23	Bre' Ford (Jr.)
S	4	**Anthony Holmes (Sr.)**	26	Devonte Morgan (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Robert Stein (So.)	KR	22	Tyler Williams (Jr.)
P	38	Zach Paul (So.)	PR	12	Imani Davis (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kyle Pohl, 58-38-366-2, 5 TDs
Rushing: Jawon Chisholm, 180 att., 953 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: L.T. Smith, 48 rec., 509 yards, 3 TDs
Tackles: Justin March, 62
Sacks: 3 players tied with 2
Interceptions: Justin March, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Akron Beacon Journal/ Phil Masturzo

NATIONAL FORECAST **87**

MAC EAST PREDICTION **1**

Bowling Green FALCONS

GABE MARTIN

THE QUOTE

"Defensively they are as good as anyone in this league. Dave Clawson has done a great job with that program."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	9	**Shaun Joplin (Sr.)**	10	Herve Coby (So.)
WR	81	**Chris Gallon (So.)**	83	Jared Cohen (Sr.)
WR	17	Ryan Burbrink (So.)	85	Heath Jackson (Jr.)
LT	79	**Fahn Cooper (So.)**	67	Jacob Bennett (So.)
LG	52	**Dominic Flewellyn (Sr.)**	53	Logan Dietz (So.)
C	65	**Chief Kekuewa (Sr.)**	62	Spencer Cairo (So.)
RG	55	**Alex Huettel (So.)**	59	Darion Delany (Jr.)
RT	74	Christian Piazza (So.)	77	J.J. Beggan (So.)
TE	82	**Alex Bayer (Sr.)**	89	Tyler Beck (Sr.)
QB	7	**Matt Schilz (Sr.)**	11	Matt Johnson (So.)
RB	2	Andre Givens (So.)	37	Jamel Martin (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	43	**Bryan Thomas (So.)**	88	Kendall Montgomery (Jr.)
DT	93	**Ted Ouellet (Sr.)**	54	Mike Minns (So.)
DT	90	Jairus Campbell (Sr.)	92	Zach Colvin (Jr.)
DE	46	**Charlie Walker (Jr.)**	96	Ronnie Goble (Sr.)
LB	33	**Paul Swan (Sr.)**	30	Paul Senn (Jr.)
LB	7	D.J. Lynch (So.)	28	Coy Brown (So.)
LB	11	**Gabe Martin (Jr.)**	3	Brian Sutton (Jr.)
CB	8	**Cam Truss (Sr.)**	12	DeVon McKoy (Jr.)
CB	1	**Darrell Hunter (Jr.)**	19	Will Watson (So.)
S	15	**Rylan Ward (Jr.)**	14	Jude Adjei-Barimah (Jr.)
S	24	**BooBoo Gates (Sr.)**	22	Josh Pettus (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Tyler Tate (So.)	KR	24	BooBoo Gates (Sr.)
P	95	Brian Schmiedebusch (Sr.)	PR	17	Ryan Burbrink (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Matt Schilz, 413-228-2,585-12, 14 TDs

Rushing: Jamel Martin, 39 att., 205 yds., 0 TDs

Receiving: Chris Gallon, 54 rec., 720 yds., 6 TDs

Tackles: Gabe Martin, 70

Sacks: Gabe Martin, 4.5

Interceptions: Jude Adjei-Barimah, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bowling Green SID

OFFENSE The Falcons hope to return one of the top offensive combinations in the league from a unit that averaged 365.5 yards per game last year. Senior quarterback Matt Schilz has started 35 games and has 50 touchdown passes and 7,832 yards on his resume. He had 2,585 passing yards and 14 TDs last season. The question mark surrounds running back Anthon Samuel, who has rushed for more than 1,800 yards and scored 16 touchdowns over the past two seasons. Samuel left school late in 2012 to be with his wife and son back home in Florida. His return is uncertain.

If Samuel does not come back, Andre Givens, Jamel Martin and Jordan Hopgood will battle for the starting assignment. Martin carried the ball 39 times for 205 yards last season.

Schilz's top two targets will be Chris Gallon, who is 6'4" and caught 54 passes for 720 yards and six TDs last year, and the 6'2" Shaun Joplin, who had 40 receptions for 639 yards. The tight end also is a big part of the attack. Alex Bayer, who has started 30 straight games, caught 36 passes for 410 yards as a junior.

7.8

Bowling Green allowed an average of 7.8 points per game during its six-game winning streak last season.

The offensive line, rich in experience, is a strength for Bowling Green. The Falcons return four players who started all 13 games in 2012 — center Chief Kekuewa, guards Dominic Flewellyn and Alex Huettel and tackle Fahn Cooper. Flewellyn, who earned all-conference honors last season, has made 33 straight starts.

DEFENSE The Falcons boasted the best defense in the MAC last season, allowing only 296.6 yards and 16.8 points per game. The 2013 unit should be strong again, despite the loss of tackle Chris Jones, the '12 MAC Defensive Player of the Year. He tied for eighth in the nation with 12.5 sacks.

There is plenty of talent remaining on the defensive line. Ends Charlie Walker and Bryan Thomas combined for six sacks and 14 tackles for a loss. Tackle Ted Ouellet earned all-league honors after posting three sacks and six stops behind the line. Jairus Campbell is coming back from an injury that cost him 10 games in 2012 and joins Ouellet up front.

Gabe Martin, a first-team All-MAC pick, returns after leading the Falcons with 70 tackles last year. Paul Swan is another returning starter, and D.J. Lynch has plenty of experience with the unit.

Bowling Green is loaded in the secondary with all four starters back from a group that finished 13th in the country in passing defense. All-MAC performers BooBoo Gates (safety) and Cameron Truss (cornerback) lead the unit.

SPECIALISTS Punter Brian Schmiedebusch gives the Falcons a potent field position weapon. He earned second-team all-conference honors last season with 18 punts over 50 yards, a 40.8-yard average and 24 kicks downed inside the 20-yard line. Tyler Tate, 7-of-10 on field goals last season, handles the placekicking. The Falcons are looking for more out of their return units in 2013. They ranked eighth in the league in kickoff returns last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Falcons should continue moving up the ladder in the MAC, and the top rung is next. Bowling Green went 8–5 last season, after going 5–7 and 2–10 in the previous two years, respectively. With eight starters back on offense, nine on defense, and a pair of veterans returning in the kicking game, fifth-year coach Dave Clawson has his program in position to win a division title for the first time since 2003, when Bowling Green won the MAC West.

The Falcons' schedule is favorable. They don't play Northern Illinois and Ball State — two of the top teams in the MAC West — and they host fellow East contender Ohio.

Head Coach: Dave Clawson
Record at School: 22-28 (4 years)
Career Record: 80-77 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Warren Ruggiero
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Elko
Bowling Green, OH
Doyt Perry Stadium (24,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-5, 7-1 (MAC)

August		
29	Tulsa	
September		
7	at Kent State	
14	at Indiana	
21	Murray State	
28	Akron	
October		
5	UMass	
12	at Mississippi State	
26	Toledo	
November		
5	at Miami (Ohio)	
12	Ohio	
23	at Eastern Michigan	
29	at Buffalo	

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Sept. 1	at Florida	L	14–27	
Sept. 8	Idaho	W	21–13	
Sept. 15	at Toledo	L	15–27	
Sept. 22	at Virginia Tech	L	0–37	
Sept. 29	Rhode Island	W	48–8	
Oct. 6	at Akron	W	24–10	
Oct. 13	Miami (Ohio)	W	37–12	
Oct. 20	at Massachusetts	W	24–0	
Oct. 27	Eastern Michigan	W	24–3	
Nov. 7	at Ohio	W	26–14	
Nov. 17	Kent State	L	24–31	
Nov. 23	vs. Buffalo %	W	21–7	
Dec. 27	vs. San Jose State #	L	20–29	

%Columbus #Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Paul Senn, LB, Norco, CA*
2. Fred Coppet, RB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
3. Joe Davidson, P, Findlay, OH
4. Isaiah Gourdine, DB, Farmington, MI
5. Ryan Hunter, OL, North Bay, ON
6. Aaron Banks, DB, Chicago, IL
7. Eric Harrell, RB, Orlando, FL
8. Nate Locke, LB, Canton, OH
9. Teo Redding, WR, Warren, MI
10. Clark Clancy, OL, Troy, MI

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	22.9 ppg	10	92
Rushing	153.4 ypg	8	63
Passing	212.1 ypg	9	82
Total	365.5 ypg	11	91
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	16.8 ppg	1	10
Rushing	106.5 ypg	1	12
Passing	190.1 ypg	1	13
Total	296.6 ypg	1	6
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+4	+0.31	5	43

Buffalo

BULLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **103**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Jeff Quinn
Record at School: 9-27 (3 years)
Career Record: 10-28 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Alex Wood
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Tepper
Buffalo, NY
UB Stadium (29,013)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (MAC)

August		
31	at Ohio State	
September		
7	at Baylor	
14	Stony Brook	
28	Connecticut	
October		
5	Eastern Michigan	
12	at Western Michigan	
19	UMass	
26	at Kent State	
November		
5	Ohio	
12	at Toledo	
19	at Miami (Ohio)	
29	Bowling Green	

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Sept.	1	at Georgia	L	23-45
Sept.	8	Morgan State	W	56-34
Sept.	19	Kent State	L	7-23
Sept.	29	at Connecticut	L	17-24
Oct.	6	at Ohio	L	31-38
Oct.	13	at Northern Illinois	L	3-45
Oct.	20	Pittsburgh	L	6-20
Oct.	27	Toledo	L	20-25
Nov.	3	Miami (Ohio)	W	27-24
Nov.	10	Western Michigan	W	29-24
Nov.	17	at UMass	W	29-19
Nov.	23	vs. Bowling Green %	L	7-21

%Columbus

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jamarl Eiland, WR, Canton, MI
2. Dubois Ross, ATH, Bethlehem, PA
3. Blake Bean, LB, Wichita, KS*
4. James Coleman, RB, Queen's Village, NY
5. Houston Glass, DB, Kentwood, MI
6. Xavier Davis, DT, Atlanta, GA
7. Brandon Crawford, DE, Madison, FL
8. Andrews Dadeboe, DB, York, PA
9. Chris Ford, DT, Medina, OH
10. Jarrett Franklin, LB, St. Charles, MO

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	21.3 ppg	12	99
Rushing	176.6 ypg	6	47
Passing	199.3 ypg	10	95
Total	375.8 ypg	10	83
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.5 ppg	6	69
Rushing	155.4 ypg	5	55
Passing	208.3 ypg	2	31
Total	363.7 ypg	2	37
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-6	-0.50	10	95

OFFENSE Three seasons into Jeff Quinn's tenure at Buffalo, the offense he promised hasn't really delivered. The possibility exists for Quinn's offense to emerge this season with the return of eight starters, as well as standout senior tailback Branden Oliver.

While lacking the athletic ability to run a pure spread option, sophomore quarterback Joe Licata combines tremendous arm strength with intelligence and competitiveness, and the Bulls can certainly use all three elements at that position. But Quinn may have to find a way to get former starter Alex Zordich on the field. Zordich rushed for 501 yards, third on the team, and has the respect of his teammates because of his reckless style.

A consistent Licata, who started the final four games last season, should be enough to jumpstart the offense, and Oliver, who missed five games last season because of injury — but still rushed for 821 yards — should keep it purring.

Oliver will be running behind a line that returns three starters, including senior guard Jasen Carlson, who can also play center. Left tackle Andre Davis and center Trevor Sales, both juniors, are also back.

The Bulls return their best weapon at wideout in senior Alex Neutz, a second-team All-MAC selection who finished with 65 receptions for 1,015 yards and 11 touchdowns, but another option in the passing game needs to develop. Senior Fred Lee played in only eight games last season because of injury, and his return should help. But Devon Hughes, Cordero Dixon, Ron Willoughby and Rudy Johnson, all big targets, have to perform better in order for the unit to improve.

50

Buffalo had only one passing play that went for more than 50 yards last season, and it was thrown by tight end Alex Dennison.

DEFENSE There's no lack of talent on the defense, which is headlined by destructive All-MAC senior linebacker Khalil Mack. He led the Bulls with 94 tackles, including eight sacks, last season. He could be one of the conference's top draft prospects in 2014.

Buffalo will continue to employ a 3-4 defense under second-year coordinator Lou Tepper, the former Illinois head coach who boasts 35 years of FBS coaching experience. The defense is designed to attack and blitz from all over the field to better utilize the scheme's athletes.

Buffalo doesn't have an abundance of depth along the line, but Mack gets help up front from defensive end Colby Way, who leads a front three that must replace end Steven Means and nose guard Wyatt Cahill.

Everyone returns in the secondary, led by corners Najja Johnson and Cortney Lester, rover Okoye Houston and free safety Witney Sherry.

SPECIALISTS With placekicker Patrick Clarke and punter Tyler Grassman returning, concerns are minimal with the kicking game. Clarke converted 11-of-15 field-goal attempts and also handled kickoffs, recording 13 touchbacks. Grassman averaged 35.4 yards per kick with a 32.8 net. There are questions, however, in the return game. Dixon was the main punt returner in the spring, while Houston worked on kickoffs. Tailbacks Brandon Murie and Devin Campbell also were part of the return rotation, but Oliver might end up being the best option.

FINAL ANALYSIS For the last 10 seasons, Buffalo rarely has had a lack of athletes on the field. The biggest problem for the Bulls has been putting it all together, and in 2012, that didn't happen until late last season. After a 3–9 season in 2011 — including a win over East Division champion Ohio — the Bulls took a slight step forward in 2012, and Quinn was rewarded with a three-year contract extension. With a solid returning group and a year of experience, the Bulls could take a another step forward in the MAC East.

BRANDEN OLIVER

THE QUOTE

"(Linebacker) Khalil Mack might be the best defensive player in the league. You have to account for him on every play."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**19**	**Alex Neutz (Sr.)**	86	Ron Willoughby (So.)
WR	**12**	**Cordero Dixon (Jr.)**	13	Devon Hughes (Jr.)
WR	**18**	**Fred Lee (Sr.)**	6	Rudy Johnson (Jr.)
LT	**50**	**Andre Davis (Jr.)**	73	Jesse Back (So.)
LG	**56**	**Jasen Carlson (Sr.)**	74	Robert Blodgett (So.)
C	**71**	**Trevor Sales (Jr.)**	77	Gabriel Barbe (Jr.)
RG	65	Dillon Guy (Jr.)	60	Jake Pickett (So.)
RT	67	Jake Silas (Jr.)	61	John Kling (So.)
TE	**81**	**Jimmy Gordon (Sr.)**	17	Alex Dennison (Sr.)
QB	16	Joe Licata (So.)	**15**	**Alex Zordich (Sr.)**
TB	32	Branden Oliver (Sr.)	21	Devin Campbell (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	95	Beau Bachtelle (Sr.)	57	Kendall Patterson (So.)
NG	90	Kristian Sokoli (Jr.)	93	Dalton Barksdale (Jr.)
DE	**34**	**Colby Way (Sr.)**	99	Albert McCoy (Fr.)
OLB	**46**	**Khalil Mack (Sr.)**	51	Brandon Tammaro (So.)
ILB	9	Jake Stockman (Jr.)	42	Ryan Paxson (Jr.)
ILB	**36**	**Lee Skinner (Jr.)**	52	Travis Pitzonka (So.)
OLB	92	Kendall Roberson (Jr.)	43	Nick Gilbo (So.)
CB	**22**	**Najja Johnson (Sr.)**	31	Carlos Lammons (Sr.)
CB	**4**	**Cortney Lester (Jr.)**	39	Marqus Baker (So.)
SS	**30**	**Okoye Houston (Sr.)**	29	Adam Redden (Sr.)
FS	10	Witney Sherry (Jr.)	**15**	**Derek Brim (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Patrick Clarke (Jr.)	**KR**	32	Branden Oliver (Sr.)
P	11	Tyler Grassman (So.)	**PR**	32	Branden Oliver (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Alex Zordich, 208-106-1,254-7, 9 TDs
Rushing: Branden Oliver, 148 att., 821 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Alex Neutz, 65 rec., 1,015 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Khalil Mack, 94
Sacks: Khalil Mack, 8
Interceptions: Najja Johnson, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Paul Hokanson

NATIONAL FORECAST **101**

MAC EAST PREDICTION **3**

Kent State

GOLDEN FLASHES

DRI ARCHER

OFFENSE New coach Paul Haynes, who took over at his alma mater after Darrell Hazell left for Purdue, inherits an offense that will be led by two of the conference's most accomplished playmakers. Speedy senior Dri Archer ranked 30th nationally in rushing (102.1 ypg) and bruising junior Trayion Durham ranked 41st (94.0 ypg). Archer scored a school-record 23 touchdowns as a runner, receiver and kick returner to lead KSU to its first bowl game in 40 years. He was an All-American as a kick-returner and gave Haynes an early coaching gift by deciding not to turn pro.

In 2013, the pair may be asked to be even more productive because Spencer Keith, a four-year starter at quarterback, is gone. David Fisher, a junior college transfer in 2012, and redshirt freshman Colin Reardon are vying for the job.

The receiving corps welcomes back senior Tyshon Goode, who has 136 career catches but missed 2012 with a serious hamstring injury.

An area of concern is the line, which lost one four-year starter and two three-year starters. Center Phil Huff and guard Pat McShane are the only holdovers.

16

Kent State increased its scoring production by 16 points per game in 2012 — jumping from 17.1 in 2011 to 33.1 last season.

DEFENSE Only four starters return from a unit that ranked No. 74 nationally in total defense, allowing 410.3 yards per game. The unquestioned leader is senior lineman Roosevelt Nix, who is trying to become the program's first four-time first-team All-MAC selection. Nix has 20.5 sacks, 52 tackles for a loss and 10 forced fumbles in his career.

End Mark Fackler is the only other returning starter on the line, but Richard Gray, who plays both end and tackle, and end Zack Hitchens were productive as reserves in 2012.

Linebacker is the unit's biggest area of concern. Luke Batton and C.J. Malauulu, who finished first and fourth in tackles, respectively, are gone. Their replacements will come from veterans with limited experience and youngsters long on potential. DeVante' Strickland is the most experienced returnee.

The secondary is solid and experienced. Strong safety Luke Wollet was second-team All-MAC in 2012. Free safety Calvin Tiggle missed the last eight games and all of the spring with a knee injury but is expected to be healthy in the fall. KSU lost both cornerbacks, but Darius Polk (107 career tackles) is ready to take over at one spot.

SPECIALISTS Archer averaged 36.9 yards on 16 kickoff returns and scored three TDs before teams stopped kicking to him late last season. Haynes is hoping to design schemes so opponents will have a hard time doing that in 2013. Anthony Melchiori was expected to handle both placekicking and punting duties, but redshirt freshman Brad Miller had a great spring and is in line to handle field goals and PATs.

FINAL ANALYSIS Kent State won a school-record 11 games, captured its first title of any kind (MAC East) since 1972 and spent three weeks in the BCS rankings. Expectations are high once again in 2013.

On offense, Archer and Durham must produce, especially since the Flashes will be breaking in a new starting quarterback. The offensive line, a major asset last season, must develop in a hurry. On defense, the line and secondary are deep and talent-laden. Nix is a force who changes game plans. Much will depend on finding linebackers. Special teams should be strong once again.

The schedule provides Kent State with little help. In non-league games, the Flashes travel to LSU and Penn State in back-to-back weeks. In the league, they play two of the top teams in the West (Northern Illinois and Ball State) and must travel to Ohio. Repeating as East champs will be difficult, but Kent State should reach bowl-eligibility for the second straight season.

THE QUOTE

"They are really good on defense — maybe the best in the conference. (Defensive tackle) Roosevelt Nix is back. He's solid."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	5	Tyshon Goode (Sr.)	12	James Brooks (Fr.)
WR	6	**Chris Humphrey (Jr.)**	81	Kris White (Fr.)
SLOT	1	**Dri Archer (Sr.)**	19	Josh Boyle (So.)
LT	67	Terrell Johnson (Jr.)	66	Anthony Pruitt (So.)
LG	50	**Pat McShane (Sr.)**	64	Tad France (Fr.)
C	75	**Phil Huff (Sr.)**	74	Tom Pizzurro (Jr.)
RG	77	Max Plunkett (Sr.)	63	Alex Nielsen (Fr.)
RT	55	Reno Reda (Fr.)	68	Jason Bitsko (So.)
TE	42	**Tim Erjavec (Sr.)**	88	Casey Pierce (Jr.)
QB	7	David Fisher (Sr.)	10	Colin Reardon (Fr.)
RB	34	**Trayion Durham (Jr.)**		Roman Clay (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	47	**Mark Fackler (Sr.)**	52	Clay Miller (So.)
DT	5	**Roosevelt Nix (Sr.)**	80	Andrew Christopher (Sr.)
NG	69	Nate Terhune (So.)	50	Chris Fairchild (So.)
DE	41	Zack Hitchens (Sr.)	34	Richard Gray (Sr.)
OLB	31	**DeVante' Strickland (Jr.)**	10	Andre Parker (Jr.)
MLB	58	Danny Gress (Sr.)		Dusty Moore (Fr.)
OLB	32	Matt Dellinger (So.)	33	Dontavious Colson (Fr.)
CB	11	Darius Polk (Sr.)	13	Kerrick Rhone (Fr.)
CB	14	Dylan Farrington (Jr.)	2	Malcom Pannell (Sr.)
SS	39	**Luke Wollet (Sr.)**	23	Jordan Italiano (So.)
FS	8	Calvin Tiggle (Jr.)	18	Keenan Stalls (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	Brad Miller (Fr.)	**KR**	1	Dri Archer (Sr.)
P	14	Anthony Melchiori (So.)	**PR**	39	Luke Wollet (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Fisher, 23-14-230-1, 1 TD

Rushing: Dri Archer, 159 att., 1,429 yds., 16 TDs

Receiving: Dri Archer, 39 rec., 561 yds., 4 TDs

Tackles: Luke Wollet, 119

Sacks: Roosevelt Nix, 6

Interceptions: Luke Wollet, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Kent State SID

KENT STATE

Head Coach: Paul Haynes
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Rock
Defensive Coordinator: Brian George
Kent, OH
Dix Stadium (25,319)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 4-4 (MAC)

August	
29	Liberty
September	
7	Bowling Green
14	at LSU
21	at Penn State
28	at Western Michigan
October	
5	Northern Illinois
12	at Ball State
19	at South Alabama
26	Buffalo
November	
2	at Akron
13	Miami (Ohio)
19	at Ohio

2012 RESULTS (11-3, 8-0)

Aug.	30	Towson	W	41-21
Sept.	8	at Kentucky	L	14-47
Sept.	19	at Buffalo	W	23-7
Sept.	29	Ball State	W	45-43
Oct.	6	at Eastern Michigan	W	41-14
Oct.	13	at Army	W	31-17
Oct.	20	Western Michigan	W	41-24
Oct.	27	at Rutgers	W	35-23
Nov.	3	Akron	W	35-24
Nov.	10	at Miami (OH)	W	48-32
Nov.	17	at Bowling Green	W	31-24
Nov.	23	Ohio	W	28-6
Nov.	30	vs. No. Illinois %	(ot) L	37-44
Jan.	6	vs. Arkansas State #	L	13-17

%Detroit #Godaddy.com Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dusty Moore, LB, Stockbridge, GA
2. Roman Clay, RB, Lancaster, PA
3. Jontey Byrd, DL, Daytona Beach, FL
4. Kris White, WR, Clermont, FL
5. Nathan Strock, QB, Zanesville, OH
6. Tyson Reinke, DL, Eden Prairie, MN
7. Demetrius Monday, CB, Douglasville, GA
8. Terence Waugh, DE, Atlanta, GA
9. Elcee Refuge, Ath, New Orleans, LA
10. Wayne Scott, OL, Daytona Beach, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	33.1 ppg	3	35
Rushing	225.8 ypg	2	18
Passing	162.5 ypg	12	110
Total	388.3 ypg	8	73
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.5 ppg	3	44
Rushing	138.3 ypg	2	33
Passing	272.0 ypg	11	105
Total	410.3 ypg	6	74
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+20	+1.43	1	4

Miami REDHAWKS

NATIONAL FORECAST **112**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Don Treadwell
Record at School: 8-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 8-16 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Klacik
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Peterson
Oxford, OH
Yager Stadium (24,286)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 4-4 (MAC)

August		
31	at Marshall	
September		
7	at Kentucky	
21	Cincinnati	
28	at Illinois	
October		
5	Central Michigan	
12	at Massachusetts	
19	Akron	
26	at Ohio	
November		
5	Bowling Green	
13	at Kent State	
19	Buffalo	
29	at Ball State	

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Sept.	1	at Ohio State	L	10-56
Sept.	8	Southern Illinois	W	30-14
Sept.	15	at Boise State	L	12-39
Sept.	22	Massachusetts	W	27-16
Sept.	29	at Akron	W	56-49
Oct.	6	at Cincinnati	L	14-52
Oct.	13	at Bowling Green	L	12-37
Oct.	27	Ohio	W	23-20
Nov.	3	at Buffalo	L	24-27
Nov.	10	Kent State	L	32-48
Nov.	17	Central Michigan	L	16-30
Nov.	23	Ball State	L	24-31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Falon Lee, RB, Macclenny, FL
2. Jake Giordano, LB, Wellington, FL
3. Heath Harding, DB/RB, Englewood, OH
4. Tom Tupa, QB, Brecksville, OH
5. Xavier Swinton, DB, West Palm Beach, FL
6. Parker White, DL, Bellaire, TX
7. Jake Hilvert, OL, Cleves, OH
8. Randy Heideman, OL, Bloomington, IL
9. Collin Buchanan, OL, Southfield, MI
10. Bert Birdsall, DB, Chesterfield, MO

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	23.3 ppg	9	90
Rushing	86.6 ypg	12	118
Passing	298.7 ypg	2	22
Total	385.3 ypg	9	75
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	34.9 ppg	10	100
Rushing	241.1 ypg	11	119
Passing	226.6 ypg	5	51
Total	467.7 ypg	10	104
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-5	-0.42	8	88

OFFENSE Austin Boucher finally gets his chance to be Miami's full-time starter at quarterback after patiently biding his time while backing up record-setting Zac Dysert. The left-handed senior has experience, going 4–0 as a starter and leading the RedHawks to wins in the 2010 MAC title game and the GoDaddy.com Bowl.

Targets won't be a problem for Boucher. Senior Nick Harwell has some of Ryne Robinson's receiving records in sight, and his pursuit will be easier with the presence of junior Dawann Scott, who helps keep opposing defenses from focusing on Harwell. The well is even deeper at tight end, where four letterwinners return.

Miami will live or die by the pass since most of the same faces return from a rushing attack that ranked 12th in the conference and 118th in the nation with only 86.6 yards per game. Sophomore Jamire Westbrook and junior Spencer Treadwell, the head coach's son, had the most carries among the running backs. Besides his passing prowess, Dysert also was Miami's second-leading rusher with a net of 265 yards.

Offensive line experience might help create more balance. Of the 60 possible starts by the five-man line last season, players who made 42 of them return.

DEFENSE Defensive tackle Austin Brown missed 10 games last season with a back injury, and it showed in the RedHawks' rushing defense, which ranked 11th in the MAC. A healthy senior season by Brown, paired with the experience of Wesley Scott (four starts in '12) at the other tackle, would go a long way toward improving that ranking.

7
Miami had less than 100 yards rushing in seven of its 12 games last season.

Two more seniors, ends Mwanza Wamulumba and Wes Williams, lead returning players in sacks with 2.5 each.

Senior outside linebacker Chris Wade, who led Miami with 128 tackles last season, will be counted on to lead an inexperienced linebacking corps that lost two starters. Williams could also see time at middle linebacker, where he played three games last season.

Junior safety Brison Burris ranked second on the team in tackles. He and senior cornerback Dayonne Nunley return to lead the secondary. Sophomore safety Marshall Taylor and junior cornerback Chrishawn Dupuy will graduate to full-time jobs after making a limited number of starts last season.

SPECIALISTS Kaleb Patterson wrestled the starting placekicker job away from Mason Krysinski by going 15-of-18 on field goals and 23-of-25 on PATs as a freshman last season. The RedHawks could use similar consistency at punter, where senior Zac Murphy ranked only ninth in the MAC last season with an average of 40.5 yards per punt. First-year special teams coach Andrew Marlatt must find a way to help the RedHawks win the field-position battle. Miami ranked 11th in kickoff returns and 10th in coverage last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Significant strides have been lacking in Don Treadwell's first two seasons as the head coach at his alma mater, and the climb is shaping up to be steep again in 2013, the 125th season of Miami football. After completing 12 consecutive winning campaigns, the RedHawks have finished below .500 in six of the last seven seasons. The non-conference schedule seems to be a little easier, with Kentucky and Illinois replacing Ohio State and Boise State.

Boucher proved his raw talent in 2010, but he's going to have to quickly knock off the rust to get the most out of his one season at the helm. He might end up among the team's rushing leaders again unless one (or more) of the top three returning ball-carriers shows dramatic improvement. The running game will be better, but not eye-popping.

Defensively, good health will go a long way toward overcoming inexperience issues.

NICK HARWELL

Tim G. Zechar / Icon SMI

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback (Zac Dysert) was such a key guy for them last year, so it will be interesting to see what they have behind him."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**8**	**Nick Harwell (Sr.)**	12	Willie Culpepper (Sr.)
WR	**25**	**Dawann Scott (Jr.)**	23	JJ Greenwood (Sr.)
WR	80	David Frazier (Jr.)	85	Alvonta Jenkins (Jr.)
LT	**64**	**Josh Harvey (Sr.)**	62	Delvin Becks (Sr.)
LG	**75**	**Marcus Matthews (Jr.)**	74	Jeff Tanner (Sr.)
C	73	Brandyn Cook (So.)	70	Ryan Callen (So.)
RG	**65**	**Trevan Brown (So.)**	67	John Anevski (Sr.)
RT	**71**	**Zach Lewis (Jr.)**	78	Julian Green (Sr.)
TE	87	Steve Marck (Sr.)	**84**	**Dustin White (Sr.)**
QB	16	Austin Boucher (Sr.)	9	Drew Kummer (Jr.)
RB	**5**	**Jamire Westbrook (So.)**	22	Spencer Treadwell (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**9**	**Wes Williams (Sr.)**	50	David DeLeon (So.)
DT	60	Wesley Scott (So.)	95	Bryson Albright (So.)
DT	90	Austin Brown (Sr.)	99	Mitch Winters (So.)
DE	**92**	**Mwanza Wamulumba (Sr.)**	57	Albert Phillips (Jr.)
OLB	**48**	**Chris Wade (Sr.)**	59	Joe Donlan (Jr.)
MLB	43	Kent Kern (So.)	44	Collin Boucher (Sr.)
OLB	38	Tyler Tucker (Jr.)	34	Tre Clifton (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Dayonne Nunley (Sr.)**	27	Jarrell Jones (Jr.)
CB	31	Chrishawn Dupuy (Jr.)	1	Orne Bey (Sr.)
S	**35**	**Brison Burris (Jr.)**	14	Jay Mastin (So.)
S	21	Marshall Taylor (So.)	23	Trey Payne (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Kaleb Patterson (So.)	**KR**	25	Dawann Scott (Jr.)
P	45	Zac Murphy (Sr.)	**PR**	3	Dayonne Nunley (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Boucher, 13-7-82-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jamire Westbrook, 92 att., 361 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Nick Harwell, 68 rec., 870 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Chris Wade, 128
Sacks: Mwanza Wamulumba, 2.5; Wes Williams, 2.5
Interceptions: Brison Burris, 3; Dayonne Nunley, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **89**

MAC EAST PREDICTION **2**

Ohio BOBCATS

TYLER TETTLETON

THE QUOTE

"They are in every game. Good athletes. Offense is downhill, smash-mouth style. They do a really nice job of running the football."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE Ohio has all of the skill players necessary to build the MAC's best offense. Senior quarterback Tyler Tettleton, entering his third year as the starter, already owns the school records for yards passing (6,278) and touchdowns (46) even though he played with lingering injuries the last two-thirds of 2012. "He probably wasn't himself," says coach Frank Solich. "I think he's poised to have a tremendous season. He enables us to do an awful lot."

Senior running back Beau Blankenship, one of seven players nationally to carry the ball at least 300 times last year, shattered the single-season school record for rushing yards (1,604). "He's a warrior," Solich says. "You can give him as many reps as you want and he relishes that, and he will still be strong at the end."

To keep defenses from ganging up on Blankenship, senior split end Donte Foster (59 catches, eight TDs) leads a veteran pass-catching corps. Keep an eye on junior Landon Smith. He had just eight catches last season, but averaged 24.8 yards with two scores.

5.14

Beau Blankenship averaged 5.14 yards per carry in 2012, the most among the five backs nationally who averaged at least 24 rushing attempts per game.

If there's a concern, it's on the offensive line, where the Bobcats graduated second-team All-MAC center Skyler Allen and right guard Eric Herman. Ohio couldn't use spring ball to merge its three new linemen with returning tackles John Prior and Ryan McGrath, because four key players missed the spring due to injuries.

DEFENSE Solich entered last fall expecting to field Ohio's finest defense since his arrival in 2005. Then All-MAC cornerback Travis Carrie suffered a season-ending injury in fall camp. Jamil Shaw, the other starting corner, went out for the year during the Week 1 win at Penn State. Those injuries set the tone for the season, which found Ohio surrendering more than 300 rushing yards to Buffalo and Ball State and giving up an average of 24.8 points and 388.4 yards per game. While the Bobcats had to tough out the injuries, it sets up a scenario in which they have an abundance of experience in certain spots.

In the secondary, Carrie and Shaw are back to reclaim their corner spots, while Larenzo Fisher and Ian Wells, who both made 11 starts in 2012, provide tremendous depth. Xavier Hughes, who missed the final nine games last year, resurfaces at free safety alongside starting strong safety Josh Kristoff. Junior nickel Nathan Carpenter is another solid vet.

Keith Moore, last year's top tackler (98 stops, two INTs, two sacks), shifts from the middle to weak-side linebacker, while sophomore Ben Russell, who missed the spring due to shoulder surgery, takes over in the middle.

Senior end Nic Barber, with six starts last season, is the most experienced player on the line. Solich sees tackle Brandon Purdum and nose guard Antwan Crutcher as "legitimate players in the MAC."

SPECIALISTS Unproven sophomore Josiah Yazdani takes over at kicker for the graduated Matt Weller, a three-time All-MAC selection who finished his career as Ohio's all-time leading scorer (409 points). Daz'mond Patterson averaged 24.3 yards per kickoff return last year, while Carrie averaged 11.2 yards per punt return in 2010 and 2011 combined. The Bobcats' punt coverage needs work, as Grant Venham and his crew finished 96th last year in net punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS Ohio was 7–0 and flying toward the MAC East title when an abnormal number of injuries helped to send the Bobcats to a 1–4 regular-season finish. Their dominant Independence Bowl performance has renewed hopes for another assault on the elusive MAC crown that hasn't happened since 1968. Presuming the lines mature as Solich projects, every game on the schedule is winnable — including the opener at Sugar Bowl champ Louisville.

OFFENSE (6)

WR	80	Matt Waters (Sr.)	87	Landon Smith (Jr.)
WR	3	**Donte Foster (Sr.)**	6	Sebastian Smith (Fr.)
WR	19	Mario Dovell (Sr.)	8	Chase Cochran (Jr.)
LT	74	**John Prior (Sr.)**	75	Mike McQueen (So.)
LG	66	Jon Lechner (Sr.)	58	Seth Everhart (So.)
C	54	Lucas Powell (So.)	52	Mark Smith (Jr.)
RG	63	Sam Johnson (Sr.)	67	Mike Lucas (So.)
RT	60	**Ryan McGrath (Sr.)**	61	Bryce Dietz (Jr.)
TE	11	**Troy Hill (Sr.)**	9	Derek Roback (Jr.)
QB	4	**Tyler Tettleton (Sr.)**	15	Derrius Vick (So.)
TB	22	**Beau Blankenship (Sr.)**	20	Ryan Boykin (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	97	Nic Barber (Sr.)	99	Kurt Laseak (Fr.)
NG	91	Antwan Crutcher (Jr.)	79	Tony Watson (Fr.)
DT	95	Brandon Purdum (So.)	98	Tony Davis (Jr.)
DE	73	Ty Branz (Sr.)	93	Tarrell Basham (Fr.)
SLB	10	A.J. Grady (Jr.)	21	Brandon Atwell (Jr.)
MLB	36	Ben Russell (So.)	33	Blair Brown (Fr.)
WLB	38	**Keith Moore (Sr.)**	51	Jovon Johnson (So.)
CB	2	Jamil Shaw (Sr.)	45	**Larenzo Fisher (Jr.)**
CB	18	Travis Carrie (Sr.)	41	**Ian Wells (So.)**
SS	9	**Josh Kristoff (Jr.)**	39	Devin Jones (So.)
FS	23	Xavier Hughes (Sr.)	25	Thad Ingol (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Josiah Yazdani (So.)	KR	7 Daz'mond Patterson (So.)
P	48	Grant Venham (So.)	PR	18 Travis Carrie (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Tettleton, 367-228-2,844-4, 18 TDs

Rushing: Beau Blankenship, 312 att., 1,604, 15 TDs

Receiving: Donte Foster, 59 rec., 659 yds., 8 TDs

Tackles: Keith Moore, 98

Sacks: Ty Branz, 3

Interceptions: Nathan Carpenter, 2; Keith Moore, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Stew Milne

Head Coach: Frank Solich
Record at School: 59-44 (8 years)
Career Record: 117-63 (14 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Tim Albin, Gerry Gdowski
Defensive Coordinator: Jimmy Burrow
Athens, OH
Peden Stadium (24,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-2 (MAC)

August	
31	at Louisville
September	
7	North Texas
14	Marshall
21	Austin Peay
October	
5	at Akron
12	Central Michigan
19	at Eastern Michigan
26	Miami (Ohio)
November	
5	at Buffalo
12	at Bowling Green
19	Kent State
29	UMass

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 4-4)

Sept.	1	at Penn State	W	24–14
Sept.	8	New Mexico State	W	51–24
Sept.	15	at Marshall	W	27–24
Sept.	22	Norfolk State	W	44–10
Sept.	29	at UMass	W	37–34
Oct.	6	Buffalo	W	38–31
Oct.	13	Akron	W	34–28
Oct.	27	at Miami (Ohio)	L	20–23
Nov.	1	Eastern Michigan	W	45–14
Nov.	7	Bowling Green	L	14–26
Nov.	14	at Ball State	L	27–52
Nov.	23	at Kent State	L	6–28
Dec.	28	vs. UL Monroe #	W	45–14

#Independence Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tarrell Basham, DE, Rocky Mount, VA
2. Cameron McLeod, DT, McLain, MS*
3. Casey Sayles, DE, Omaha, NE
4. Trent Smart, DE, Wilmington, OH
5. Corey Quallen, S, Mason, OH
6. Cedric Brown, WR, Martinsburg, WV
7. Brendan Cope, WR, Warren OH
8. Mason Morgan, TE, Cincinnati, OH
9. Zach Murdock, OL, Dublin, OH
10. Durrell Wood, OL, Columbus, OH

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	31.7 ppg	4	42
Rushing	203.3 ypg	3	27
Passing	241.5 ypg	7	53
Total	444.8 ypg	4	33
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	4	46
Rushing	159.4 ypg	6	59
Passing	229.0 ypg	6	55
Total	388.4 ypg	4	55
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+15	+1.15	2	7

UMASS MINUTEMEN

NATIONAL FORECAST 124
MAC EAST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Charley Molnar
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 1-11 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: John Bond
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Elmassian
Amherst, MA
Gillette Stadium (68,756)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 1-11, 0-8 (MAC)

August	
31	at Wisconsin
September	
7	Maine
14	at Kansas State
21	Vanderbilt
October	
5	at Bowling Green
12	Miami (Ohio)
19	at Buffalo
26	Western Michigan
November	
2	Northern Illinois
16	Akron
23	at Central Michigan
29	at Ohio

2012 RESULTS (1-11, 1-7)

Aug.	30	at Connecticut	L	0-37
Sept.	8	Indiana	L	6-45
Sept.	15	at Michigan	L	13-63
Sept.	22	at Miami (Ohio)	L	16-27
Sept.	29	Ohio	L	34-37
Oct.	6	at Western Michigan	L	14-52
Oct.	20	Bowling Green	L	0-24
Oct.	27	at Vanderbilt	L	7-49
Nov.	3	at Northern Illinois	L	0-63
Nov.	10	at Akron	W	22-14
Nov.	17	Buffalo	L	19-29
Nov.	23	Central Michigan	L	21-42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Lorenzo Woodley, RB, Miami, FL
2. D.J. Woods, WR, Coral Springs, FL
3. Shane Huber, LB, Basking Ridge, NJ
4. Todd Stafford, QB, Riverside, CT
5. Sam Zeff, OL, Montclair, NJ
6. Steven Casali, LB Farmingville, NY
7. Peter Ngobidi, DE, Hyde Park, MA
8. Richard Queen, OL, Alendale, NJ
9. Tyshon Henderson, OL, Newark, NJ
10. Jordan Page, OL, Ewing, NJ

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC
Scoring	12.7 ppg	13
Rushing	91.6 ypg	12
Passing	186.7 ypg	11
Total	278.3 ypg	13
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**
Scoring	40.2 ppg	13
Rushing	225.6 ypg	11
Passing	235.8 ypg	7
Total	461.3 ypg	9
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**
-9	-0.75	11

OFFENSE A year ago in its first season as an FBS program, UMass averaged 12.7 points per game, by far the lowest in the Mid-American Conference, en route to a 1–11 season. With only four returning starters on offense, coach Charley Molnar is hoping that an infusion of newcomers will help jumpstart the Minuteman.

Sophomore quarterback Mike Wegzyn, who performed unevenly in 11 starts in 2012, will enter preseason as the starter, but fellow sophomore A.J. Doyle could unseat him before the team's Aug. 31 opener. Still, Molnar is confident that Wegzyn, who threw six touchdowns and 10 interceptions, is ready to take a step forward.

"When I look at Wegzyn, sometimes it's hard to believe it's Mike Wegzyn, he's improved so much," Molnar says. "His knowledge of the offense, recognition of defenses, his footwork and his accuracy have greatly improved. Can he do it through the course of the season? That's what we have to see, but right now he's on track to being the most improved player on offense."

Whoever is under center will be throwing to a mostly new group of targets with three of last year's top four pass-catchers gone. Senior tight end Rob Blanchflower figures to be a top target, and fifth-year Michigan transfer Ricardo Miller will undoubtedly get a chance at either wide receiver or tight end.

7

UMass scored a total of seven points during one three-game stretch in which it lost to Bowling Green, Vanderbilt and Northern Illinois by a combined 136–7.

At running back, junior Jordan Broadnax and redshirt freshman Stacey Bedell both figure to get carries. But both backs rely on their speed and lack power, leaving the door open for true freshmen Lorenzo Woodley (6'0", 210) and Daquan Mack (6'1", 247) to get into the mix right away.

None of that will matter if the offensive line doesn't come together quickly. Left tackle Anthony Dima is not only the lone returning starter, but he is also the only offensive lineman on the roster who was even in the program in 2012. How the young unit jells will determine whether the skill position players have a chance to improve.

DEFENSE Eight true freshmen saw action last year on a UMass defense that gave up a league-worst 40.2 points per game. But the unit got better as the season progressed, creating hope that a group of young veterans might allow the team to take a noticeable step forward.

The most experienced group is the defensive line, where senior ends Kevin Byrne and Stanley Andre will be counted on to be playmakers.

Behind them, seven sophomores are projected starters.

Led by Kassan Messiah, who had double-digit tackles in three of his first four games last year, the Minutemen will feature three linebackers who all showed promise as true freshmen and could form the backbone of the defense for the next three seasons.

Cornerback Trey Dudley-Giles will cover an opponent's top receiver most of the time. "Trey Dudley-Giles is always around the football. I can see him really making a positive impact for us, especially in the turnover margin," Molnar says.

SPECIALISTS Molnar says he may have the best specialists in the MAC with all-conference punter Colter Johnson and solid kicker Blake Lucas returning. Lucas converted on 7-of-8 field goal attempts, but none longer than 40 yards. Molnar is optimistic about Dudley-Giles' potential as a big-play punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is UMass' first season where it's eligible to qualify for a bowl. But with Wisconsin, Kansas State and Vanderbilt on the non-conference schedule and the MAC coming off its best year ever, playing after November seems like an extreme long shot for the Minutemen.

ROB BLANCHFLOWER

THE QUOTE

"They have to play so many BCS games to bring in revenue to fund the move (to FBS), and that wears on you."

– An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	1	**Tajae Sharpe (So.)**	14	Dalvin Battle (Fr.)
WR	88	Bernard Davis (So.)		Ricardo Miller (Sr.)
WR	80	Elgin Long (So.)	31	Iric Harris (So.)
LT	70	**Anthony Dima (Sr.)**	74	Cameron Mock (Fr.)
LG	56	Sam Zeff (Fr.)	78	Matt Sparks (So.)
C	78	Matt Sparks (So.)	64	Al Leneus (So.)
RG	55	Josh Bruns (Jr.)	64	Al Leneus (So.)
RT	69	Tyrell Smith (Fr.)	74	Cameron Mock (Fr.)
TE	87	**Rob Blanchflower (Sr.)**	89	Derek Beck (So.)
QB	11	**Mike Wegzyn (So.)**	15	A.J. Doyle (So.)
RB	28	Jordan Broadnax (Jr.)	23	Stacey Bedell (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	93	**Kevin Byrne (Sr.)**	95	Brandon Potvin (Sr.)
DT	97	Daniel Maynes (Jr.)	73	John Bieren (Fr.)
DT	49	Galen Clemons (Sr.)	75	Robert Kitching (So.)
DE	35	**Stanley Andre (Sr.)**	54	Trey Seals (So.)
OLB	90	Kassan Messiah (So.)		Steve Casali (Fr.)
MLB	50	**Jovan Santos-Knox (So.)**	37	Tom Brandt (Sr.)
OLB	43	John Robinson (So.)		Shane Huber (Fr.)
CB	20	**Trey Dudley-Giles (So.)**	26	Quayshun Smith (Jr.)
CB	17	**Randall Jette (So.)**	13	D'Metrius Williams (So.)
S	21	Khary Bailey-Smith (So.)	6	Ed Saint-Vil (Jr.)
S	46	Joe Colton (So.)	42	Devin Brown (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Blake Lucas (So.)	KR	28	Jordan Broadnax (Jr.)
P	91	Colter Johnson (Sr.)	PR	20	Trey Dudley-Giles (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mike Wegzyn, 346-182-1,825-10, 6 TDs
Rushing: Mike Wegzyn, 93 att., 141 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Rob Blanchflower, 43 rec., 464 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Kassan Messiah, 65
Sacks: Stanley Andre, 1; Kassan Messiah, 1
Interceptions: Khary Bailey-Smith, 2; Randall Jette, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Thom Kendall

NATIONAL FORECAST 74
MAC WEST PREDICTION 2

Ball State CARDINALS

KEITH WENNING

THE QUOTE

"What needs to be said about them? They are as good as there is. Not only good talent-wise — their coaching is off the charts."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	**Willie Snead (Jr.)**	31	Jordan Williams (So.)
WR	2	**Jamill Smith (Sr.)**	80	Chris Shillings (Jr.)
WR	81	**Connor Ryan (Sr.)**	30	KeVonn Mabon (So.)
QT	75	Matthew Page (Sr.)	71	Bryan Ford (So.)
QG	65	Jalen Schlachter (So.)	98	Ian Anderson (So.)
C	62	Jacob Richard (So.)	60	Josh Smith (Fr.)
SG	70	**Jordan Hansel (Sr.)**	76	Connor Stefanski (Fr.)
ST	66	Steven Bell (Fr.)	78	Drake Miller (Fr.)
TE	88	**Zane Fakes (Sr.)**	40	Dylan Curry (So.)
QB	10	**Keith Wenning (Sr.)**	15	Ozzie Mann (Fr.)
TB	32	**Jahwan Edwards (Jr.)**	4	Horactio Banks (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	11	**Jonathan Newsome (Sr.)**	46	Michael Ayers (So.)
DT	92	**Nathan Ollie (Sr.)**	95	Darnell Smith (So.)
NT	93	Joel Cox (Sr.)	35	Keenan Noel (So.)
DE	52	**Nick Miles (Jr.)**	94	Osa Igbinosun (Jr.)
SLB	21	Christopher Calloway (Jr.)	17	Kenneth Lee (Sr.)
MLB	19	Ben Ingle (So.)	50	Trent Toothman (So.)
WLB	42	Julian Boyd (Jr.)	34	Stephan Martin (Jr.)
CB	24	**Jeffery Garrett (Sr.)**	25	Chris Pauling (So.)
CB	36	**Eric Patterson (Jr.)**	20	Darius Conaway (Fr.)
S	29	Brian Jones (Jr.)	37	Aaron Taylor (Fr.)
S	27	**J.C. Wade (Jr.)**	43	Martez Hester (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Scott Secor (Jr.)	KR	2	Jamill Smith (Sr.)
P	21	Kyle Schmidt (Fr.)	PR	2	Jamill Smith (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Keith Wenning, 460-301-3,095-10, 24 TDs
Rushing: Jahwan Edwards, 232 att., 1,410 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Willie Snead, 89 rec., 1,148 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Eric Patterson, 61
Sacks: Jonathan Newsome, 8.5
Interceptions: Quinton Cooper, 2; Eric Patterson, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

CSM/AP Images

OFFENSE While Northern Illinois rolled all the way to the Orange Bowl on the strength of the MAC's best offense, it's important to remember that Ball State ranked second in the league in points and total yards. More important, the Cardinals welcome back all of their skill position players from the group that rolled up 33.6 points and 457.2 yards per game. That includes three first-team All-MAC targets in junior split end Willie Snead (89 catches, 1,148 yards, nine TDs), senior slot Jamill Smith (69-706) and senior tight end Zane Fakes (57-461).

Senior quarterback Keith Wenning, who has started 34 of the last 35 games, has made dramatic leaps in each of the last two seasons. Can the second-team All-MAC quarterback challenge NIU's Jordan Lynch this year? "He's the whole package," says third-year head coach Pete Lembo. "He's a very grounded kid. He's poised to have a very nice year."

One of the reasons Wenning might not eclipse last season's 3,095 yards and 24 touchdowns is Lembo's insistence on a balanced attack. Ball State boasts a terrific blend of power and speed in the backfield with 230-pound junior Jahwan Edwards (1,410 yards, 14 TDs) and 184-pound sophomore Horactio Banks (586 yards, four TDs).

10-2

Ball State has a 10–2 record in games decided by seven points or less in Pete Lembo's first two years as the head coach.

So what's the potential catch this year? The Cardinals must replace four linemen who combined for 137 career starts — most notably all-league tackle Austin Holtz. Senior guard Jordan Hansel (6'4", 326), a third-team All-MAC selection, is the lone returnee. Ball State doesn't have many upperclassmen to fill the gaps, but Lembo likes the fact that the Cardinals just signed their third consecutive solid class of linemen. "There's been quite a bit of attrition here, but we have good young kids," Lembo says.

DEFENSE Ball State has allowed at least 20 points in 26 consecutive games, which shows that the Cardinals are still finding their way.

Things should be solid on the line with senior end Jonathan Newsome (8.5 sacks in 2012) and senior tackle Nathan Ollie (8.5 sacks in the last two years) leading the way. Junior end Nick Miles joins Ollie as the only returnees who started all 13 games in 2012. "We're slowly starting to build our depth here," Lembo says.

The Cardinals lost all three starting linebackers. That includes middle man Travis Freeman, who ended last season as the nation's leading active tackler with 465 career stops. Projected starters Ben Ingle, Julian Boyd and Christopher Calloway combined for 25 tackles last season.

Ball State welcomes back its starting corners in senior Jeffery Garrett and junior Eric Patterson, but the interchangeable safety jobs are up for grabs. Returning starter J.C. Wade and redshirt freshman Martez Hester are battling at one spot, while junior Brian Jones and redshirt freshman Aaron Taylor are competing at the other.

SPECIALISTS Ball State might have enjoyed the nation's best kicker/punter combination last year. Alas, Ray Guy finalist Scott Kovanda, who was invited to the NFL Combine, and Steven Schott, who ranked second nationally with 1.92 field goals per game, graduated. Junior Scott Secor takes over at kicker while redshirt freshmen Kyle Schmidt and Alex Egan are battling to be the punter. Smith, who is only 5'8" and 140 pounds, was named third-team All-MAC as a return specialist last year, and he's capable of being the league's best kick and punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS For the first time in school history, Ball State knocked off back-to-back BCS conference foes (Indiana and South Florida) last year. That's a sign of where the Cardinals are headed. If the defense takes a step forward and the new specialists hold their own, Ball State will challenge for MAC West supremacy.

Head Coach: Pete Lembo
Record at School: 15-10 (2 years)
Career Record: 94-46 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rich Skrosky
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Bateman
Muncie, IN
Scheumann Stadium (22,500)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-2 (MAC)

August	
29	Illinois State
September	
7	Army
14	at North Texas
21	at Eastern Michigan
28	Toledo
October	
5	at Virginia
12	Kent State
19	at Western Michigan
26	at Akron
November	
6	Central Michigan
13	at Northern Illinois
29	Miami (Ohio)

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 6-2)

Aug.	30	Eastern Michigan	W	37–26
Sept.	8	at Clemson	L	27–52
Sept.	15	at Indiana	W	41–39
Sept.	22	South Florida	W	31–27
Sept.	29	at Kent State	L	43–45
Oct.	6	Northern Illinois	L	23–35
Oct.	13	Western Michigan	W	30–24
Oct.	20	at Central Michigan	W	41–30
Oct.	27	at Army	W	30–22
Nov.	6	at Toledo	W	34–27
Nov.	14	Ohio	W	52–27
Nov.	23	Miami (Ohio)	W	31–24
Dec.	21	vs. UCF #	L	17–38

#Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Calvin Blank, TE, Terre Haute, IN
2. Pat Maloney, OL, Niles, IL
3. Vinnie Palazeti, OL, Owosso, MI
4. Damerrian Petty, DT, Shelby, NC
5. Anthony Winbush, DE, Indianapolis, IN
6. Teddy Williamson, RB, O'Fallon, MO
7. Sean Wiggins, LB, Mint Hill, NC
8. Blake Dueitt, DL, Cornelius, NC
9. P.J. Scott, OL, Morris, OK*
10. Stu Stanley, LB, Indianapolis, IN

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	33.6 ppg	2	33
Rushing	203.2 ypg	4	28
Passing	254.0 ypg	4	47
Total	457.2 ypg	2	27
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	32.0 ppg	8	92
Rushing	207.1 ypg	9	106
Passing	255.3 ypg	10	93
Total	462.4 ypg	9	102
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-3	-0.23	7	76

Central Michigan CHIPPEWAS

NATIONAL FORECAST 111
MAC WEST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Dan Enos
Record at School: 13-24 (3 years)
Career Record: 13-24 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Cummings
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Tumpkin
Mount Pleasant, MI
Kelly/Shorts Stadium (32,885)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (MAC)

August		
31	at Michigan	
September		
7	New Hampshire	
14	at UNLV	
21	Toledo	
28	at NC State	
October		
5	at Miami (Ohio)	
12	at Ohio	
19	Northern Illinois	
November		
6	at Ball State	
16	at Western Michigan	
23	UMass	
29	Eastern Michigan	

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug.	30	SE Missouri State	W	38-27
Sept.	8	Michigan State	L	7-41
Sept.	22	at Iowa	W	32-31
Sept.	29	at Northern Illinois	L	24-55
Oct.	6	at Toledo	L	35-50
Oct.	12	Navy	L	13-31
Oct.	20	Ball State	L	30-41
Oct.	27	Akron	W	35-14
Nov.	3	Western Michigan	L	31-42
Nov.	10	at Eastern Michigan	W	34-31
Nov.	17	Miami (Ohio)	W	30-16
Nov.	23	at UMass	W	42-21
Dec.	26	vs. Western Kentucky #	W	24-21

#Little Caesars Pizza Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Corey Willis, WR, Holland, MI
2. Derek Edwards, OL, Novi, MI
3. Shakir Carr, OL, South Bend, IN
4. Wesley Thomas, WR, South Bend, IN
5. Jack Ford, OL, Cadillac, MI
6. Mark Chapman, WR, Port Huron, MI
7. Zach Crouch, TE, Lowell, MI
8. Darrien Boone, QB, Chicago, IL
9. J.P. Quinn, OL, Naperville, IL
10. Austin Doan, OL, Romeo, MI

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	28.9 ppg	7	63
Rushing	150.5 ypg	9	72
Passing	244.2 ypg	6	51
Total	394.8 ypg	7	63
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	32.4 ppg	9	94
Rushing	192.9 ypg	8	93
Passing	241.1 ypg	9	73
Total	433.9 ypg	7	89
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+2	+0.15	6	50

OFFENSE It's pretty clear who will be carrying and catching the football this season in Mount Pleasant. Who will deliver it, however, is a ways from being solved. Junior Cody Kater, sophomore Alex Niznak and redshirt freshman Cooper Rush — none of whom has any discernible FBS experience — are competing to replace three-year starter Ryan Radcliff. Heading into fall camp, if there's a leader, fourth-year coach Dan Enos isn't saying so. "It's going to sort itself out," Enos says.

It didn't during the spring. Kater, who put up big numbers in the junior college ranks two years ago, was the presumed favorite before being outplayed by both Niznak and Rush in the Spring Game. Kater and Niznak are dual-threats, while Rush is considered the purest passer of the group.

There's proven and prolific talent at the other skill positions, beginning with bruising senior running back Zurlon Tipton and big-play junior wideout Titus Davis, both second-team All-MAC selections a year ago. Tipton rushed for nearly 1,500 yards in 2012, at just shy of six yards per carry. Davis was one of only two receivers among the top 100 in the nation in receiving yards to average 20 yards per catch.

The Chippewas have to replace All-America left tackle Eric Fisher but caught a break when right tackle Jake Olson was granted a sixth year of eligibility. Olson, who was lost for the season with a leg injury in September, steps in for Fisher at left tackle, anchoring a line with two returning starters from a unit that allowed only 15 sacks last season.

1.8
The five FBS teams that Central Michigan defeated en route to becoming bowl-eligible averaged only 1.8 wins over other FBS teams.

DEFENSE CMU's defense took a needed leap in stinginess toward the end of 2012. After allowing 41 points or more in five of the first nine games, the Chippewas held three of their final four opponents to 21 points or fewer during a four-game winning streak that altered how Enos' program is perceived heading into this season.

Enos says this is the best defensive front of his tenure, led by junior tackle Leterrius Walton and senior end Alex Smith. Considering that the Chippewas ranked 119th in the country in tackles for a loss last season, even modest improvement may be noticeable.

CMU returns two starting linebackers — senior Shamari Benton and junior Justin Cherocci (258 tackles between them in 2012) — and three-quarters of its starting secondary.

SPECIALISTS Senior punter Richie Hogan averaged 41.8 yards per punt as a junior, fourth-best in the MAC. The uncertainty is at placekicker, where redshirt freshman Ron Coluzzi takes over for three-year starter David Harman. "We like him," Enos says of Coluzzi. "He has a strong leg. (But) you've got to do it in the games." The Chips need more production from their return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS In early November, it looked like Enos might not see a fourth season as CMU's coach. The Chippewas were 3–6, coming off of a home loss to rival Western Michigan, and appeared headed for their third losing season under Enos. Then, improbably, CMU won three straight and snuck into the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, where it upset Western Kentucky.

Suddenly Enos had a four-year contract extension. "It was a great thing for our program at the right time," Enos says of the late-season run and bowl victory.

The vibe is now about taking the next step, rather than rebuilding. The schedule, though, isn't kind. After a rare seven-home-game slate in 2012 (followed by an in-state bowl game), the Chippewas only have five home games this fall — with two of them coming against MAC West powers Northern Illinois and Toledo. A return to the postseason is unlikely.

ZURLON TIPTON

THE QUOTE

"Losing the left tackle, Eric Fisher, is huge. He was really, really good. That might have been best offensive line in the conference."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**84**	**Titus Davis (Jr.)**	25	Courtney Williams (Jr.)
WR	9	Andrew Flory (So.)	81	Jerry Harris (Sr.)
LT	73	Jake Olson (Sr.)	78	Colin Goetz (Fr.)
LG	**66**	**Andy Phillips (Jr.)**	63	Connor Collins (Fr.)
C	**54**	**Nick Beamish (So.)**	68	Dylan Anderson (Fr.)
RG	72	Cody Pettit (Sr.)	75	Kenny Rogers (So.)
RT	60	Kevin Henry (Jr.)	77	Ramadan Ahmeti (So.)
TE	33	Mike Kinville (Jr.)	89	Connor Odykirk (Sr.)
QB	10	Cooper Rush (Fr.)	2	Alex Niznak (So.)
FB	49	Adam Fenton (Sr.)	42	Tyler Lombardo (Sr.)
RB	**34**	**Zurlon Tipton (Sr.)**	44	Anthony Garland (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	46	Blake Serpa (So.)	56	Louis Palmer (So.)
DT	**58**	**Leterrius Walton (Jr.)**	95	Shafer Johnson (So.)
DT	**52**	**Jabari Dean (So.)**	50	Matt Losiniecki (Jr.)
DE	32	Alex Smith (Sr.)	31	Kenny McClendon (Sr.)
LB	35	Brandon Greer (So.)	18	Denzel Wimberly (So.)
LB	**41**	**Justin Cherocci (Jr.)**	51	Cody Lopez (Jr.)
LB	**26**	**Shamari Benton (Sr.)**	43	Tim Hamilton (So.)
CB	**14**	**Jason Wilson (Jr.)**	6	Jordan Fields (Fr.)
CB	28	Dennis Nalor (Jr.)	16	Stefon Armstead (So.)
SS	**29**	**Jarret Chapman (Jr.)**	38	Kavon Frazier (So.)
FS	**36**	**Avery Cunningham (Sr.)**	18	Tony Annese (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Ron Coluzzi (Fr.)	**KR**	6	Saylor Lavallii (So.)
P	14	Richie Hogan (Sr.)	**PR**	84	Titus Davis (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cody Kater, 4-2-12-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Zurlon Tipton, 252 att., 1,492 yds., 19 TDs
Receiving: Titus Davis, 43 rec., 860 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Justin Cherocci, 132
Sacks: Leterrius Walson, 2.5
Interceptions: Avery Cunningham, 2; Jason Wilson, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Central Michigan STD

NATIONAL FORECAST **120**

MAC WEST PREDICTION **6**

Eastern Michigan
EAGLES

BRONSON HILL

OFFENSE Bronson Hill headlines a talented backfield that could present a dangerous combination of speed and power. Hill, who rushed for 905 yards (on a 6.5-yard average) and six touchdowns as a sophomore, has the ability to break tackles and pick up big yards after contact. Sophomore Darius Jackson had only 12 yards on three carries last year but will factor into the mix, as will junior Ryan Brumfield, who gives the Eagles that elusive back with the capability of breaking off long runs. Senior Javonti Greene has demonstrated the ability to make things happen off the edge.

Tyler Benz unseated veteran starting quarterback Alex Gillett early last season and went on to throw 14 touchdowns against eight interceptions. "He looks like a quarterback now," coach Ron English says. Benz has a better grasp of how to succeed at the position with nine starts under his belt.

New offensive coordinator Stan Parrish, a former head coach at Kansas State and Ball State, will add some new wrinkles to an offense that will be looking for some weapons to emerge in the passing game. Donald Scott, a senior, is the leading returning receiver with 19 catches for 255 yards. Tight end Tyreese Russell averaged 15.3 yards on his 12 catches.

The offensive line, which lost three starters, also is a concern.

151.4

Eastern Michigan was outgained by an average of 151.4 yards per game en route to its 1–7 finish in the MAC.

DEFENSE The Eagles must replace the bulk of their defensive playmakers, including three of their four leading tacklers. Making stops will be imperative for a defense that was one of the nation's worst, allowing 479.8 yards per game last year. Eastern Michigan was especially bad against the run, ranking last in the nation by allowing 267.0 yards per game. English, the head coach, also serves as the defensive coordinator.

Free safety Donald Coleman, the team's leading returning tackler, helps anchor a secondary that brings back a lot of experience. Safety Mycal Swaim, who started five games in his first year after transferring from junior college, is poised for a big senior season. The staff has high hopes for cornerback Willie Creear, a junior college transfer.

The real uncertainty lies at linebacker, where the Eagles lost all three starters. Sophomore Hunter Matt shows some promise at middle linebacker, and fellow sophomore Ike Spearman has the potential to be a playmaker on the weak side.

Kalonji Kashama and Omar McFarlane bookend a defensive line that has a decent amount of experience. Junior college transfer Cy Maughmer had a solid first season on the interior and is a returning starter. Redshirt freshman Pat O'Connor will factor into the rotation at end.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Dylan Mulder connected on 10-of-11 field goal attempts last season. The Eagles must find a new punter to replace Jay Karutz, who averaged 42.7 yards in 2012. Junior Owen Dubiel is next in line, but he has yet to punt the ball in his three years in the program.

FINAL ANALYSIS After going 6–6 overall and 4–4 in the MAC in 2011, Eastern Michigan appeared to be on the verge of a breakthrough last fall. Didn't happen. The Eagles slumped to 2–10 in 2012 and won only one game in the league.

With some chemistry issues that hurt last year's team apparently solved, there is plenty of desire to right the ship in 2013. Desire is one thing. Talent is another. There are some bright spots — the running game should be strong and the secondary has a chance to be solid — but there are too many hurdles for this team to climb. The Eagles will have a tough time finishing out of the basement in the always tough MAC West.

THE QUOTE

"They do a nice job running the football. I have a lot of respect for the O-line coach. Does a lot with different schemes."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**17**	**Donald Scott (Sr.)**	1	Quincy Jones (So.)
WR	82	Derek Owings (Fr.)	3	Dustin Creel (So.)
WR	2	Demarius Reed (Jr.)	9	Jay Jones (So.)
LT	**67**	**Campbell Allison (Jr.)**	71	Darien Terrell (Fr.)
LG	72	Andrew Wylie (Fr.)	73	Garrett Parker (So.)
C	55	Kent Collins (Jr.)	50	Jake Hurcombe (Fr.)
RG	79	Orlando McCord (Sr.)	57	Matt Thornton (Fr.)
RT	**77**	**Lincoln Hansen (Jr.)**	**78**	**Bobby McFadden (Jr.)**
TE	88	Tyreese Russell (Jr.)	84	Cole Gardner (Fr.)
QB	**12**	**Tyler Benz (Jr.)**	10	Mark Iannotti (So.)
RB	**30**	**Bronson Hill (Jr.)**	22	Ryan Brumfield (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**95**	**Kalonji Kashama (Sr.)**	90	Alex Jones (Fr.)
DT	**76**	**Travis Linser (Jr.)**	96	Mike Brown (So.)
DT	**93**	**Cy Maughmer (Jr.)**	99	Arron Pipkins (So.)
DE	54	Omar McFarlane (So.)	52	Patrick O'Connor (So.)
OLB	40	Sean Kurtz (Sr.)	55	Tim Brown (Jr.)
MLB	45	Ibe Kelechukwu (So.)	44	Hunter Matt (So.)
OLB	19	Ike Spearman (So.)	29	Jalen Williams (So.)
CB	4	Willie Creear (Jr.)	27	Kirkland Bryant (So.)
CB	21	Ja'Ron Gillespie (Sr.)	**1**	**Darius Scott (Jr.)**
S	3	Donald Coleman (Sr.)	42	Kevin Johnson (Jr.)
S	26	Mycal Swaim (Sr.)	7	Pudge Cotton (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Dylan Mulder (So.)	**KR**	11	Tyler Allen (Jr.)
P	67	Owen Dubiel (Jr.)	**PR**	2	Demarius Reed (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Benz, 212-144-1,511-8, 14 TDs

Rushing: Bronson Hill, 140 att., 905 yds., 6 TDs

Receiving: Donald Scott, 19 rec., 255 yds., 3 TDs

Tackles: Donald Coleman, 88

Sacks: Kalonji Kashama, 3

Interceptions: Pudge Cotton, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Duane Burleson

Head Coach: Ron English
Record at School: 10-38 (4 years)
Career Record: 10-38 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Stan Parrish
Defensive Coordinator: Ron English
Ypsilanti, MI

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 1-11, 0-8 (MAC)

August	
31	Howard
September	
7	at Penn State
14	at Rutgers
21	Ball State
October	
5	at Buffalo
12	at Army
19	Ohio
26	at Northern Illinois
November	
2	at Toledo
9	Western Michigan
23	Bowling Green
29	at Central Michigan

2012 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug.	30	at Ball State	L	26–37
Sept.	8	Illinois State	L	14–31
Sept.	15	at Purdue	L	16–54
Sept.	22	at Michigan State	L	7–23
Oct.	6	Kent State	L	14–41
Oct.	13	Toledo	L	47–52
Oct.	20	Army	W	48–38
Oct.	27	at Bowling Green	L	3–24
Nov.	1	at Ohio	L	14–45
Nov.	10	Central Michigan	L	31–34
Nov.	17	at Western Michigan	W	29–23
Nov.	23	Northern Illinois	L	7–49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brogan Roback, QB, Maumee, OH
2. Austin Barnes P, Fairview Heights, IL
3. Brandon Bossard, QB, Eagleville, PA
4. Dwayne Brown, OL, Indianapolis, IN
5. Jaleel Canty, DB, Lansing, MI
6. Reginald Bell ATH, Los Angeles, CA
7. Derrick Dunlap, DL, Indianapolis, IN
8. Deshai Powell DT, Indianapolis, IN
9. Willie Creear, CB, Seattle, WA*
10. Jacob King, WR, East Cleveland, OH

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	21.3 ppg	11	98
Rushing	164.2 ypg	7	59
Passing	171.6 ypg	11	104
Total	335.8 ypg	12	101
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	37.6 ppg	12	112
Rushing	267.0 ypg	12	120
Passing	212.8 ypg	3	38
Total	479.8 ypg	12	112
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-5	-0.42	8	88

Northern Illinois HUSKIES

NATIONAL FORECAST 44
MAC WEST PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Rod Carey
Record at School: 0-1 (First Full Season)
Career Record: 0-1 (First Full Season)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob Cole
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Niemann
DeKalb, IL
Huskie Stadium (24,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 7-1 (MAC)

August	
31	at Iowa
September	
14	at Idaho
21	Eastern Illinois
28	at Purdue
October	
5	at Kent State
12	Akron
19	at Central Michigan
26	Eastern Michigan
November	
2	at Massachusetts
13	Ball State
20	at Toledo
26	Western Michigan

2012 RESULTS (12-2, 8-0)

Sept.	1	vs. Iowa &	L	17–18
Sept.	8	Tennessee-Martin	W	35–7
Sept.	15	at Army	W	41–40
Sept.	22	Kansas	W	30–23
Sept.	29	Central Michigan	W	55–24
Oct.	6	at Ball State	W	35–23
Oct.	13	Buffalo	W	45–3
Oct.	20	at Akron	W	37–7
Oct.	27	at Western Michigan	W	48–34
Nov.	3	Massachusetts	W	63–0
Nov.	14	Toledo	W	31–24
Nov.	23	at Eastern Michigan	W	49–7
Nov.	30	vs. Kent State %	(ot) W	44–37
Jan.	1	vs. Florida State #	L	10–31

&Chicago %Detroit #Orange Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Aregeros Turner, ATH, Copley, OH
2. Mycial Allen, DB, Detroit, MI
3. Blake Holder, WR, Streamwood, IL
4. Jordan Huff, RB, Mobile, AL
5. William Lee, DT, Indianapolis, IN
6. Tate Briggs, OT, Naperville, IL
7. Brandon Mayes, S, Aurora, IL
8. Joel Bouagnon, RB, Aurora, IL
9. Nick Cieslak, QB, Waukesha, WI
10. Chad Beebe, WR, Aurora, IL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	38.6 ppg	1	13
Rushing	238.2 ypg	1	12
Passing	231.4 ypg	8	63
Total	469.6 ypg	1	20
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	19.9 ppg	2	21
Rushing	146.4 ypg	3	47
Passing	222.9 ypg	4	48
Total	369.3 ypg	3	40
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+7	+0.50	4	36

OFFENSE Northern Illinois opened the 2012 campaign with question marks at quarterback, offensive line and running back. Jordan Lynch had thrown for under 200 career yards and had to deal with five new offensive line starters and no proven running back.

All Lynch did was set a new FBS single-season rushing record for a quarterback with 1,815 yards, pass for 3,138 yards with 25 touchdowns and just six interceptions, and compile a whopping 4,953 total yards en route to finishing seventh in the Heisman Trophy voting.

Lynch returns for his senior season with motivation to prove that his 2012 numbers weren't a fluke and to silence his critics after a frustrating Orange Bowl performance against Florida State. Lynch worked on his footwork, not getting too amped up for big games and expanding his knowledge of the playbook.

The offensive line was the most overlooked aspect of NIU's success last year. The entire line returns, with left tackle Tyler Loos expected to be healthy for the opener at Iowa after missing the last three games with a broken tibia.

Besides Lynch, the Huskies don't have an explosive runner on the roster. Senior tailback Akeem Daniels showed promise with a strong showing late last season. Lynch must identify another set of wide receivers after losing his best weapons — dynamic Martel Moore and dependable Perez Ashford. Tommylee Lewis and Da'Ron Brown both have potential to emerge into go-to receivers.

259

Northern Illinois was limited to 259 total yards by Florida State in the Orange Bowl. That was 227 yards below NIU's average at the time.

DEFENSE The heart of a defense that got lost in the shuffle last season behind the highlight-reel offense is mostly gone. The senior-laden group did the dirty work and allowed a scant 19.9 points per game. Eight starters must be replaced, with three of the top four sack leaders departed.

The front seven is filled with potential but is young and has very little game experience. Defensive end George Rainey and tackle Ken Bishop are expected to pick up the production and leadership.

Junior Jamaal Bass will get an opportunity to fulfill his vast potential at linebacker with the loss of Tyrone Clark and Victor Jacques. Jimmie Ward, a first-team All-MAC safety in 2012, anchors what should be a solid secondary. Cornerbacks Sean Evans and Marlon Moore both showed promise last year.

SPECIALISTS Senior Mathew Sims is a clutch kicker who might get an opportunity to showcase his leg more this season. The punting job is wide open, but there are several capable candidates. Lewis is an electric kick returner capable of changing the momentum of a game.

FINAL ANALYSIS New coach Rod Carey inherits a program with a fan base thirsting to follow in the footsteps of BCS crashers Boise State and TCU. Expectations have reached unreal levels at Northern Illinois after three straight seasons with at least 11 wins, five consecutive bowl appearances — including last year's Orange Bowl — and two MAC championships in a row. The 2012 season was a perfect combination of a favorable schedule, weakened conference and some key late developments — most beyond NIU's control — that allowed the Huskies to elbow their way into a BCS bowl.

The offense faces a new set of questions in 2013. Opponents won't be caught off guard after spending the offseason game-planning to stop Lynch. The success of the season might hinge on NIU finding playmakers to take pressure off of their record-setting quarterback. There's also the question about Carey's ability to handle the transition from assistant coach to CEO at what is now a high-pressured job.

The pieces are in place for a third straight MAC title, but it won't be as easy as many NIU fans envision.

JORDAN LYNCH

THE QUOTE

"They have so much depth — rotating guys all game. ... They are the gold standard program for our league. So much success."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	4	Da'Ron Brown (Jr.)	82	Juwan Brescacin (So.)
WR	10	Tommylee Lewis (Jr.)	13	Charlie Miller (Fr.)
WR	85	Angelo Sebastiano (So.)	86	Jacob Brinlee (So.)
LT	**75**	**Tyler Loos (Jr.)**	**78**	**Ryan Brown (Jr.)**
LG	**61**	**Aidan Conlon (So.)**	68	Ron Brown (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Andrew Ness (So.)**	59	Mike Gegner (Jr.)
RG	**77**	**Jared Volk (Sr.)**	67	Tyler Pitt (Jr.)
RT	79	Matt Krempel (Sr.)	72	Josh Ruka (Fr.)
TE	**83**	**Luke Eakes (Jr.)**	37	Desroy Maxwell (So.)
QB	**6**	**Jordan Lynch (Sr.)**	9	Matt McIntosh (So.)
RB	3	Akeem Daniels (Sr.)	25	Giorgio Bowers (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	46	George Rainey (Sr.)	44	Perez Ford (So.)
DT	**93**	**Ken Bishop (Sr.)**	91	Anthony Wells (Sr.)
NG	94	Donovan Gordon (Jr.)	51	Zach Anderson (Sr.)
DE	97	Joe Windsor (Sr.)	49	Jason Meehan (Jr.)
LB	**6**	**Jamaal Bass (Jr.)**	9	Rasheen Lemon (So.)
LB	45	Boomer Mays (So.)	50	Ryan Gorrell (Jr.)
LB	52	Michael Santacaterina (Jr.)	27	Bobby Winkel (Jr.)
CB	30	Marlon Moore (So.)	28	Jhony Faustin (Sr.)
CB	2	Sean Evans (Sr.)	17	Marckie Hayes (Jr.)
SS	**15**	**Jimmie Ward (Sr.)**	33	Tre' Moore (So.)
FS	21	Dechane Durante (Jr.)	24	Dominique Ware (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Mathew Sims (Sr.)	KR	10	Tommylee Lewis (Jr.)
P	26	Tyler Wedel (So.)	PR	85	Angelo Sebastiano (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jordan Lynch, 394-237-3,138-6, 25 TDs
Rushing: Jordan Lynch, 294 att., 1,815 yds., 19 TDs
Receiving: Tommylee Lewis, 48 rec., 539 yds, 5 TDs
Tackles: Jimmie Ward, 104
Sacks: Joe Windsor, 7
Interceptions: Jimmie Ward, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Scott Walstrom/NIU Media Service

NATIONAL FORECAST **79**

MAC WEST PREDICTION **3**

Toledo ROCKETS

DAVID FLUELLEN

THE QUOTE

"They have few weaknesses. They are always good. They reload. They don't rebuild. History, tradition — they have it all.

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**9**	**Alonzo Russell (So.)**	**14**	**Justin Olack (Jr.)**
WR	17	Dwight Macon (Jr.)	8	James Green (Sr.)
WR	**1**	**Bernard Reedy (Sr.)**	2	Kishon Wilcher (So.)
LT	**56**	**Josh Hendershot (Jr.)**	72	James Henry (Fr.)
LG	**54**	**Jeff Myers (Jr.)**	78	Raymond Marlow (Fr.)
C	**67**	**Zac Kerin (Sr.)**	62	Mark Mattraw (Jr.)
RG	**75**	**Greg Mancz (Jr.)**	57	Robert Lisowski (Jr.)
RT	65	Chase Nelson (Jr.)	74	Storm Norton (Fr.)
TE	81	Alex Zmolik (So.)	41	Zac Rosenbauer (Jr.)
QB	**2**	**Terrance Owens (Sr.)**	15	Logan Woodside (Fr.)
RB	**22**	**David Fluellen (Sr.)**	19	Cassius McDowell (Jr.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	15	Jayrone Elliott (Sr.)	55	Ray Bush (Jr.)
DT	97	Orion Jones (So.)	53	Chris Collins (So.)
DT	**8**	**Elijah Jones (Sr.)**		Robert Zimmerman (So.)
DE	9	Christian Smith (Sr.)	91	Allen Covington (So.)
LB	40	Trent Voss (So.)	7	Vladimir Emilien (Sr.)
LB	34	Chase Murdock (So.)	44	Jaylen Coleman (Fr.)
LB	33	Junior Sylvestre (Jr.)	51	Derek Batt (So.)
CB	**11**	**Cheatham Norrils (Jr.)**	20	Juwan Haynes (So.)
CB	5	Chris Dukes (So.)	13	Cameron Cole (Jr.)
S	21	Ross Madison (Sr.)	12	Danny Larkins (Fr.)
S	4	Jordan Haden (Jr.)	25	Chaz Whitaker (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	Jeremiah Detmer (Jr.)	**KR**	1	Bernard Reedy (Sr.)
P	35	Vince Penza (Sr.)	**PR**	1	Bernard Reedy (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Terrance Owens, 350-215-2,707-8, 14 TDs

Rushing: David Fluellen, 259 att., 1,498, 13 TDs

Receiving: Bernard Reedy, 88 rec., 1,113 yds., 6 TDs

Tackles: Cheatham Norrils, 74

Sacks: Jayrone Elliott, 6

Interceptions: Jordan Haden, 2; Cheatham Norrils, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Wily Low

OFFENSE It's been four years since the Rockets have gone into a season settled on a quarterback. Terrance Owens, who took a majority of the snaps last season, is the unquestioned starter in 2013, and he is surrounded by a wealth of talent and experience.

Owens should improve on his 2,707 passing yards and 14 touchdowns from 2012, and be the confident leader Toledo's potent spread offense needs. Owens has a strong arm and is a solid runner; he rushed for 50 yards or more five times last season.

David Fluellen, a first-team All-MAC pick last year, is back at tailback. He rushed for 1,498 yards (on a solid 5.8-yard average) and 13 touchdowns as a junior. Fluellen provides the punch, and backup Cassius McDowell gives Toledo an elusive outside runner.

Toledo also possesses game-breaking talent at wide receiver, led by senior Bernard Reedy, the league's top deep threat. Reedy had 88 catches and six scores last season, and was an All-MAC pick as a receiver and return specialist. At 6'4", Alonzo Russell gives Toledo a lanky target to complement Reedy.

39

The Toledo defense gave up a staggering 39 plays of 30 yards or more last year. Only three teams gave up more.

The group up front should give Owens room to operate. Four starters return, including first-team all-conference center Zac Kerin. Guards Jeff Myers and Greg Mancz and tackle Josh Hendershot are also returning starters. Chase Nelson and Storm Norton will battle for the right tackle position.

DEFENSE Toledo's defense has ranked seventh or worse in the MAC in each of the last four seasons. And things might not get any better any time soon. The Rockets must replace nine starters from the 2012 group that gave up 473.2 yards per game (and ranked 11th in the league).

The coaches, however, are hoping that an increased level of athleticism will help the defense be more productive in 2013.

Senior end Christian Smith will be asked to lead the defensive front. Elijah Jones, Orion Jones and massive junior college transfer Robert Zimmerman, who checks in at 6'3" and 340 pounds, man the inside. Jayrone Elliott is at the end opposite Smith.

At linebacker, Toledo has to replace a ton of production. Dan Molls and Robert Bell, both gone, combined to record 266 tackles in 2012. Sophomore Trent Voss leads the next wave of Rocket linebackers, while Chase Murdock, Junior Sylvestre and Derek Batt will push for playing time.

All-MAC performer Cheatham Norrils, a junior cornerback, is the only starter back in the secondary. Toledo ranked 116th nationally in pass defense last year, giving up 290.9 yards per game.

SPECIALISTS Reedy is the star of the special teams units, ranking second in the MAC in punt returns (11.1 ypr) and first in kickoff returns (27.7 ypr). Steady kicker Jeremiah Detmer hit 24-of-29 field goals last season, while punter Vince Penza put 21 of his 58 punts inside the 20.

FINAL ANALYSIS Toledo has a 26–13 record overall and 20–4 mark in the MAC over the past three seasons with three straight bowl appearances. The only thing missing is a conference title, something this program has not won since 2004.

The offense is loaded, with four all-conference players back, plus a veteran quarterback in Owens. The Rockets, however, might have to overwhelm the opposition to reach a championship. The strength of the defense remains in doubt, following the loss of Molls, the nation's leading tackler in 2012, and eight other starters.

Second-year coach Matt Campbell contends he has the talent on hand to finally conquer the MAC West Division, but his defense will need to show up early and often for that to happen.

Head Coach: Matt Campbell
Record at School: 10-4 (1+ Seasons)
Career Record: 10-4 (1+ Seasons)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Louis Ayeni, Jason Candle
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Matukewicz
Toledo, OH
Glass Bowl (26,248)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 6-2 (MAC)

August	
31	at Florida
September	
7	at Missouri
14	Eastern Washington
21	at Central Michigan
28	at Ball State
October	
5	Western Michigan
19	Navy
26	at Bowling Green
November	
2	Eastern Michigan
12	Buffalo
20	Northern Illinois
29	at Akron

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 6-2)

Sept.	1	at Arizona	(ot)	L	17–24
Sept.	8	at Wyoming		W	34–31
Sept.	15	Bowling Green		W	27–15
Sept.	22	Coastal Carolina		W	38–28
Sept.	29	at Western Michigan		W	37–17
Oct.	6	Central Michigan		W	50–35
Oct.	13	at Eastern Michigan		W	52–47
Oct.	20	Cincinnati		W	29–23
Oct.	27	at Buffalo		W	25–20
Nov.	6	Ball State		L	27–34
Nov.	14	at Northern Illinois		L	24–31
Nov.	20	Akron		W	35–23
Dec.	15	vs. Utah State #		L	15–41

#Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Robert Zimmerman, DT, Sumter, SC*
2. Delando Johnson, ATH, Baltimore, MD
3. Zach Yousey, WR, Columbus, OH
4. Austin Niswander, LB, Findlay, OH
5. Marquis Moore, DT, Toledo, OH
6. Kareem Hunt, RB, Willoughby, OH
7. Daniel Davis, DE, Grand Blanc, MI
8. Rodney Adama, WR, St. Petersburg, FL
9. Boston Mathews, OL, Crystal Lake, IL
10. Logan Woodside, QB, Frankfort, KY

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	5	44
Rushing	193.2 ypg	5	35
Passing	252.0 ypg	5	48
Total	445.2 ypg	3	32
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.4 ppg	5	67
Rushing	182.3 ypg	7	78
Passing	290.9 ypg	12	116
Total	473.2 ypg	11	109
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+7	+0.54	3	33

Western Michigan BRONCOS

NATIONAL FORECAST 102
MAC WEST PREDICTION 4

Head Coach: P.J. Fleck
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Kirk Ciarrocca
Defensive Coordinator: Ed Pinkham
Kalamazoo, MI
Waldo Stadium (30,200)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (MAC)

August		
31	at Michigan State	
September		
7	Nicholls State	
14	at Northwestern	
21	at Iowa	
28	Kent State	
October		
5	at Toledo	
12	Buffalo	
19	Ball State	
26	at UMass	
November		
9	at Eastern Michigan	
16	Central Michigan	
26	at Northern Illinois	

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Sept. 1	at Illinois	L	7-24
Sept. 8	Eastern Illinois	W	52-21
Sept. 15	at Minnesota	L	23-28
Sept. 22	Connecticut	W	30-24
Sept. 29	Toledo	L	17-37
Oct. 6	Massachusetts	W	52-14
Oct. 13	at Ball State	L	24-30
Oct. 20	at Kent State	L	24-41
Oct. 27	Northern Illinois	L	34-48
Nov. 3	at Central Michigan	W	42-31
Nov. 10	at Buffalo	L	24-29
Nov. 17	Eastern Michigan	L	23-29

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Khairi Bailey, DE, Chicago, IL
2. Caleb Bailey, LB, Romeoville, IL
3. Jackson Day, OL, Granger, IN
4. Cameron Thomas, QB, South Lyon, MI
5. Josh Bass, OL, Battle Creek, MI
6. Austin Guido, RB, Aurora, IL
7. Fabian Johnson, RB, Miami, FL
8. Darius Phillips, ATH, Dearborn Heights, MI
9. Jamar Simpkins, DT, West Palm Beach, FL
10. Andre Turner, DE, Harper Woods, MI

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	29.3 ppg	6	61
Rushing	149.5 ypg	10	74
Passing	289.8 ypg	3	28
Total	439.3 ypg	5	38
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	29.7 ppg	7	74
Rushing	155.2 ypg	4	54
Passing	240.8 ypg	8	72
Total	395.9 ypg	5	61
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-14	-1.17	11	110

OFFENSE Quarterback Tyler Van Tubbergen waited four years for this — to be the starter entering the season, for the offense to be his. Only it's not the offense the fifth-year senior thought he'd be running. Western Michigan fired coach Bill Cubit in November after eight seasons, hiring 32-year-old P.J. Fleck in his place.

Fleck is installing what he describes as a multiple offense, different in terminology and system from his predecessor's. He'll have some talent and experience to operate it, especially at the skill positions.

That begins with his strong-armed senior quarterback, who started six games last season in place of the injured Alex Carder, passing for 1,825 yards, 15 touchdowns and 11 interceptions in 11 appearances.

MAC Freshman of the Year Jaime Wilson remained with the team through the coaching change and figures to be WMU's top target again, after catching 67 passes for 792 yards and six touchdowns in 10 games in 2012. Enigmatic senior wideout Josh Schaffer (43 catches, 570 yards) also has big-play ability.

The Broncos' ground game will rely on the same four-man crew it has the last three seasons, with leading rusher Dareyon Chance, Tevin Drake, Brian Fields and Antoin Scriven vying for carries. The diminutive Chance rushed for 947 yards last fall, gaining 5.4 yards per carry.

The concern is with what's in front of them. WMU returns only one starter along its offensive line, center Terry Davisson. Beyond that, its projected starters are light on experience.

1980

WMU coach P.J. Fleck was born in 1980. At 32, he is the youngest head coach in the FBS ranks.

DEFENSE The Broncos were better defensively in 2012, but not enough to pick up an injury-depleted offense. Their most glaring weakness was their inability to create turnovers, forcing just 10 during league play. Only Eastern Michigan and Akron forced fewer.

New coordinator Ed Pinkham will return WMU to a 4-3 defense after a year in a 3-3-5 base. The Broncos' five leading tacklers are back, with senior Johnnie Simon (103 tackles in 2012) moving from safety to linebacker.

Second-team All-MAC safety Justin Currie headlines a seasoned secondary. The only issue is at one cornerback spot, where WMU has to replace three-year starter Lewis Toler, who left the program.

There are potential problems in the front seven, where injuries are testing limited depth, especially at linebacker. The Broncos do have senior Travonte Boles to anchor the line. Boles, with his bowling ball frame, is the sort of stout defensive tackle MAC programs often lack.

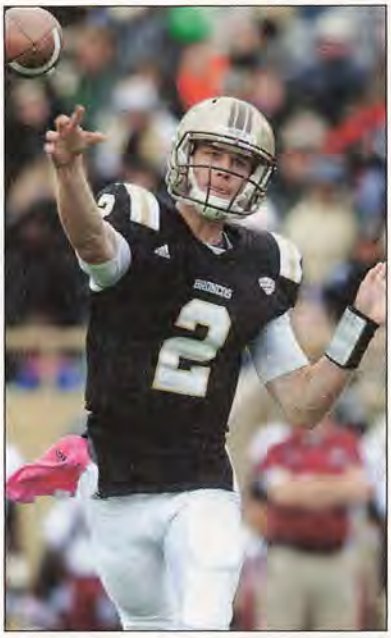
SPECIALISTS Andrew Haldeman struggled with consistency and distance during his freshman season, making 10-of-16 field goal attempts and only 2-of-6 from beyond 40 yards. Fleck brought in Brett Scanlon to push Haldeman, though he said Haldeman had a nice spring.

FINAL ANALYSIS For eight seasons, the Broncos produced exciting offense and tantalizing moments under Cubit, but never quite put it all together. Carder's hand injury early last fall led to a 4–8 season, the worst of Cubit's tenure.

Fleck has fewer years on earth than Cubit does as a coach. But he's made a number of stops in a short time — coaching in the MAC, at the BCS level and in the NFL. The former All-MAC wideout at Northern Illinois is selling to his players that he's been exactly where they are and where they want to be.

"We've got to prove to them why we should be trusted, why this scheme will work for us. It's a two-way street," Fleck says.

Trust is only part of the equation. Like with most of Cubit's teams, there are a few big-time weapons on the roster. But depth and defense are in question.



TYLER VAN TUBBERGEN

THE QUOTE

"One of better programs in the league. Easily could have been 8-4 (last year). I don't think that new staff has taken over a rebuild."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	82	**Josh Schaffer (Sr.)**	6	Kendrick Roberts (So.)
WR	4	**Jaime Wilson (So.)**	83	Michael Henry (Fr.)
WR	15	Justin Collins (Sr.)	1	Darrin Duncan (Sr.)
LT	70	Willie Beavers (So.)	78	Travis Turner (So.)
LG	79	James Kristof (So.)	64	John Jackson (Fr.)
C	67	**Terry Davisson (Sr.)**	75	Nick Roach (Fr.)
RG	73	Greg Peterson (Sr.)	71	Jon Hoffing (Jr.)
RT	72	Taylor Moton (Fr.)	61	Dustin Pringle (So.)
TE	46	Clark Mussman (Sr.)	89	Eric Boyden (So.)
QB	2	Tyler Van Tubbergen (Sr.)	11	Zach Terrell (Fr.)
RB	22	**Dareyon Chance (Sr.)**	29	Tevin Drake (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	98	Jarrell McKinney (So.)	92	Roosevelt Donaldson (Fr.)
DT	55	**Travonte Boles (Sr.)**	94	Junior Estelus (Fr.)
DT	91	Cory Sueing (Sr.)	95	Jabarai Bothwell (Fr.)
DE	48	Manny Diaz (Jr.)	93	Mikhail Dubose (Fr.)
OLB	3	**Johnnie Simon (Sr.)**	27	Trevor Ishmael (Jr.)
MLB	51	**Desmond Bozeman (Sr.)**		Caleb Bailey (Fr.)
WILL	8	**Terry Easmon (Sr.)**	40	Kyle Lark (Sr.)
CB	7	Ronald Zamort (So.)	16	Garrett Smith (Jr.)
CB	34	**Donald Celiscar (Jr.)**	26	Jon Henry (Jr.)
SS	33	**Justin Currie (Jr.)**	16	Garrett Smith (Jr.)
FS	2	Demetrius Pettway (Sr.)	18	**Rontavious Atkins (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	57	Andrew Haldeman (So.)	KR	26	Jon Henry (Jr.)
P	37	J. Schroeder (So.)	PR	4	Jaime Wilson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Passing: Tyler Van Tubbergen, 261-159-1,825-11, 15 TDs
Rushing: Dareyon Chance, 176 att., 947 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Jamie Wilson, 67 rec., 792 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Johnnie Simon, 103
Sacks: Desmond Bozeman, 4
Interceptions: Donald Celiscar, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Kalamazoo Gazette/Erik Holladay

MOUNTAIN WEST PREVIEW

PRESEASON ALL-MWC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	DEREK CARR	6-3	210	Sr.	Fresno State
RB	KASEY CARRIER	5-9	185	Sr.	New Mexico
RB	ADAM MUEMA	5-10	205	Jr.	San Diego State
WR	DAVANTE ADAMS	6-2	200	So.	Fresno State
WR	NOEL GRIGSBY	5-11	175	Sr.	San Jose State
TE	MARCEL JENSEN	6-6	257	Sr.	Fresno State
C	TYLER LARSEN	6-4	312	Sr.	Utah State
G	LAMAR BRATTON	6-2	281	Jr.	New Mexico
G	NICHOLAS KASPAR	6-4	284	Sr.	San Jose State
T	CHARLES LENO	6-4	294	Sr.	Boise State
T	AUSTIN WENTWORTH	6-5	299	Sr.	Fresno State

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	BROCK HEKKING	6-4	255	Jr.	Nevada
DE	DEMARCUS LAWRENCE	6-3	244	Jr.	Boise State
DT	TYELER DAVISON	6-2	311	Jr.	Fresno State
DT	TRAVIS RACITI	6-5	286	Jr.	San Jose State
LB	KYLER FACKRELL	6-5	245	So.	Utah State
LB	JAKE FELY	5-10	210	Jr.	San Diego State
LB	KEITH SMITH	6-1	229	Sr.	San Jose State
CB	SEAN ALSTON	5-10	192	Jr.	Fresno State
CB	BENÉ BENWIKERE	6-0	192	Sr.	San Jose State
S	NAT BERHE	5-10	190	Sr.	San Diego State
S	DERRON SMITH	5-11	194	Jr.	Fresno State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	NOLAN KOHORST	6-0	180	Sr.	UNLV
P	BEN SKAER	6-0	197	Sr.	New Mexico
KR	CHASE CLAYTON	6-3	202	Jr.	New Mexico
PR	SCOTT HARDING	5-11	195	Jr.	Hawaii

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	DAVID FALES	6-3	220	Jr.	San Jose State
RB	JAY AJAYI	6-0	215	So.	Boise State
RB	TIM CORNETT	6-0	210	Sr.	UNLV
WR	MATT MILLER	6-3	218	Jr.	Boise State
WR	BRANDON WIMBERLY	6-3	225	Sr.	Nevada
TE	CROCKETT GILLMORE	6-6	245	Sr.	Colorado State
C	MATT PARADIS	6-3	293	Sr.	Boise State
G	DAVE LEFOTU	6-3	305	Jr.	Hawaii
G	TYLER STRONG	6-3	312	Sr.	Wyoming
T	JOEL BITONIO	6-4	315	Sr.	Nevada
T	ERIC SCHULTZ	6-4	308	Sr.	Utah State

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ALEX HANSEN	6-2	240	So.	Air Force
DE	ANDY JENNINGS	6-2	278	Sr.	Fresno State
DT	SAM MEREDITH	6-4	275	Jr.	San Diego State
DT	RICKY TJONG-A-TJOE	6-3	303	Sr.	Boise State
LB	SHAQ BARRETT	6-2	250	Sr.	Colorado State
LB	DEREK LARGENt	6-4	235	Jr.	San Diego State
LB	ART LAUREL	6-0	235	Sr.	Hawaii
CB	SHAQ BELL	5-11	195	Sr.	Colorado State
CB	BLAIR BURNS	5-10	180	Jr.	Wyoming
S	JEREMY IOANE	5-10	189	Jr.	Boise State
S	CHRISTIAN SPEARS	5-9	185	Jr.	Air Force

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	AUSTIN LOPEZ	6-0	170	So.	San Jose State
P	CHASE TENPENNY	6-4	250	Sr.	Nevada
KR	COLIN LOCKETT	6-0	180	Sr.	San Diego State
PR	BLAIR BURNS	5-10	180	Jr.	Wyoming

Craig Mitchelldyer

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN

1. BOISE STATE **BRONCOS** 12-1, 8-0 MWC
2. UTAH STATE **AGGIES** 7-5, 6-2 MWC
3. AIR FORCE **FALCONS** 6-6, 4-4 MWC
4. WYOMING **COWBOYS** 7-5, 4-4 MWC
5. COLORADO STATE **RAMS** 5-8, 3-5 MWC
6. NEW MEXICO **LOBOS** 4-8, 1-7 MWC

WEST

1. FRESNO STATE **BULLDOGS** 10-3, 6-2 MWC
2. SAN JOSE STATE **SPARTANS** 7-5, 5-3 MWC
3. SAN DIEGO STATE **AZTECS** 7-5, 5-3 MWC
4. NEVADA **WOLF PACK** 6-6, 5-3 MWC
5. UNLV **REBELS** 3-9, 1-7 MWC
6. HAWAII **WARRIORS** 1-11, 0-8 MWC

MWC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: BOISE STATE OVER FRESNO STATE

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Boise State
2. Fresno State
3. San Diego State
4. Hawaii
5. Colorado State
6. Nevada
7. New Mexico
8. UNLV
9. Air Force
10. Utah State
11. Wyoming
12. San Jose State

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	11	7	11	5	7	10	7
BOISE STATE	6	4	3	1	1	6	2
COLORADO STATE	9	3	7	9	12	4	5
FRESNO STATE	1	6	1	6	2	5	1
HAWAII	12	11	10	12	6	8	8
NEVADA	4	12	4	8	5	12	11
NEW MEXICO	10	1	12	3	11	7	12
SAN DIEGO STATE	8	2	8	10	3	1	4
SAN JOSE STATE	2	10	2	4	9	3	6
UNLV	7	5	6	7	8	11	9
UTAH STATE	3	9	9	2	4	2	3
WYOMING	5	8	5	11	10	9	10

Air Force FALCONS

NATIONAL FORECAST 82
MWC MOUNTAIN PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Troy Calhoun
Record at School: 47-31 (6 years)
Career Record: 47-31 (6 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Clay Hendrix, Blane Morgan
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Steve Russ, Charlton Warren
Colorado Springs, CO
Falcon Stadium (46,692)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 4-4 (MWC)

August	
31	Colgate
September	
7	Utah State
13	at Boise State
21	Wyoming
28	at Nevada
October	
5	at Navy
10	San Diego State
26	Notre Dame
November	
2	Army
8	at New Mexico
21	UNLV
30	at Colorado State

2012 RESULTS (6-7, 5-3)

Sept.	1	Idaho State		W	49-21
Sept.	8	at Michigan		L	25-31
Sept.	22	at UNLV		L	35-38
Sept.	29	Colorado State		W	42-21
Oct.	6	Navy	(ot)	L	21-28
Oct.	13	at Wyoming		W	28-27
Oct.	20	New Mexico		W	28-23
Oct.	26	Nevada		W	48-31
Nov.	3	at Army		L	21-41
Nov.	10	at San Diego State		L	9-28
Nov.	16	Hawaii		W	21-7
Nov.	24	at Fresno State		L	15-48
Dec.	29	vs. Rice #		L	14-33

#Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Colin Sandor, OL, Indianapolis, IN
2. Mike Sutton, OL, Raleigh, NC
3. Dalton Vondra, TE, Arlington, TX
4. Bryan Driskell, RB, McKinney, TX
5. Dominique Allen, QB, Richmond Hill, CA
6. Jason Black, CB, Clovis, CA
7. Ethan Brown, LB, Columbus, OH
8. Parker Davis, LB, Dodge City, KS
9. Drew Gibson, LB, Newnan, GA
10. Tim McVey, RB, Cleveland, OH

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	27.4 ppg	5	71
Rushing	316.2 ypg	1	2
Passing	102.6 ypg	9	118
Total	418.9 ypg	3	51
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	29.0 ppg	4	71
Rushing	198.8 ypg	6	99
Passing	210.6 ypg	5	35
Total	409.4 ypg	6	72
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
-13	-1.00	9	106

OFFENSE For the past decade, Air Force's quarterback position has lacked controversy. From Chance Harridge in 2002 to Connor Dietz in 2012, the starters were close to certain.

This season is different. Kale Pearson and Jaleel Awini, two gems from coach Troy Calhoun's recent recruiting work, are engaged in fierce competition. The quarterbacks are very different. Pearson stands 5'9" and specializes in running. He's fast enough to play halfback, where he played a few downs last season, and he scored on a 90-yard kickoff return in his high school state title game. Awini stands 6'2" and is a pass-first quarterback, a rarity for the Falcons. If Awini wins the starting job, he could inspire Calhoun to expand the playbook.

Ty MacArthur, the team's best receiver, will be the top option no matter who wins the quarterback derby. Halfback Jon Lee could become one of the most dangerous players in recent Air Force history. Lee is fast, elusive and powerful, but fumbles have limited his playing time. The fumbling continued during spring practice. A healthy Lee could gain 1,500 yards. A fumbling Lee could again sit the bench.

The offensive line should again be solid, led by coach Clay Hendrix, one of college football's unsung craftsmen. Tackle Jerry Henry leads a deep, fast, athletic group.

8.8

Air Force didn't pass the ball often but was efficient when it did. The Falcons led the Mountain West with 8.8 yards per attempt in 2012.

DEFENSE During his first four seasons at Air Force, Calhoun rolled to a 34–18 record and drew mentions for the head coaching jobs at Tennessee, Colorado and the Denver Broncos. In the past two seasons, Calhoun has stumbled to a 13–13 record.

This downturn is largely due to a porous defense that has allowed more than 30 points 12 times in the past two seasons. Opposing quarterbacks have long stood safe in the pocket before devouring the Falcons' defense. Last season, passers completed 68 percent of their throws. End Alex Hansen will seek to deliver havoc to quarterbacks. He led the Falcons in sacks last season as a true freshman. He's undersized, but fast, quick and hungry.

Calhoun hopes inside linebackers Connor Healy and Joey Nichol will bring a fresh toughness to the defense. Free safety Christian Spears and cornerback Steffon Batts seek to change the recent generous culture of the secondary.

The defense is young, with only one projected senior starter, and it remains undersized. No starter weighs more than 265 pounds. Last season, defensive co-coordinator Charlton Warren tried — and failed — to use quickness and speed to make up for girth. He will be forced to use the same recipe.

SPECIALISTS Punter David Baska struggled during the final five games of last season, and now could struggle to keep his job. Zach Hoffman could be the new punter. The team's placekicking was horrendous last season as the departed Parker Herrington made just 4-of-10 field goals. Drew Oehrle and Will Conant were close to even in spring practice.

FINAL ANALYSIS If Pearson wins the quarterback battle, the Falcons' option attack will be dangerous, with the possibility of Pearson and Lee sprinting to 60-yard gains. If Awini emerges, the Falcons' passing attack might be more dangerous than their rushing attack for once. But the defense must transform. Last season, the Falcons rushed for 4,111 yards, averaged 27.4 points per game and finished with a losing record.

During his first four seasons, Calhoun pushed his teams beyond their talent while excelling in winning close games. Calhoun and his program have tumbled into a slump, but this edition of the Falcons has the potential for revival. If Lee can hang on to the football and Hansen can harass quarterbacks, the Falcons could surprise.

JON LEE

THE QUOTE

"Matchup-wise, I felt for them last year. Athletically they weren't close. But they're still capable of winning six to eight games each year."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	27	**Ty MacArthur (Sr.)**	7	Garrett Brown (So.)
WR	4	Sam Gagliano (Jr.)	14	Colton Huntsman (Jr.)
LT	77	Jerry Henry (Sr.)	62	David Lore (Sr.)
LG	68	**Drew Kerber (Sr.)**	63	David Jones (Jr.)
C	65	Michael Husar (Sr.)	61	Austin Hayes (Sr.)
RG	61	**Austin Hayes (Sr.)**	59	Moshood Adeniji (Sr.)
RT	72	Matt Rochell (So.)	71	Charlie Zemko (Sr.)
TE	85	Marcus Hendricks (Jr.)	80	Garrett Griffin (So.)
QB	2	Kale Pearson (Jr.)	12	Jaleel Awini (So.)
HB	24	Jon Lee (Jr.)	37	Anthony LaCoste (Sr.)
FB	32	Broam Hart (Jr.)	40	Tyrone Sauls (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	87	Alex Hansen (So.)	98	Dillon Beschel (Jr.)
NG	47	**Joe Champaign (Jr.)**	79	Robert Green (Jr.)
DE	97	**Nick Fitzgerald (Jr.)**	95	Riley Cannon (Jr.)
OLB	41	Reggie Barnes (So.)	42	Kristov George (So.)
ILB	6	Connor Healy (So.)	36	Spencer Proctor (Jr.)
ILB	49	Joey Nichol (Jr.)	50	Ian Imamura (So.)
OLB	55	Steve Sumpter (Jr.)	8	**Jered Jones (Jr.)**
CB	23	**Steffon Batts (Sr.)**	3	**Chris Miller (Sr.)**
CB	20	Gavin McHenry (So.)	13	Justin DeCoud (Jr.)
SS	17	Jamal Byrd (Jr.)	5	Dexter Walker (So.)
FS	21	**Christian Spears (Jr.)**	2	Jordan Mays (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	91	Drew Oehrle (So.)	KR	14	Colton Huntsman (Jr.)
P	19	David Baska (Sr.)	PR	27	Ty MacArthur (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kale Pearson, 29-12-128-4, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jon Lee, 88 att., 545 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Ty MacArthur, 24 rec., 411 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Christian Spears, 91
Sacks: Alex Hansen, 4
Interceptions: Steffon Batts, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Air Force SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **11**

MWC MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **1**

Boise State BRONCOS

JOE SOUTHWICK

Craig Mitchelldyer

THE QUOTE

"They've done a good job in recruiting. They can go up against BCS teams now, and they don't look much different."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	2	**Matt Miller (Jr.)**	18	Aaron Burks (Sr.)
WR	17	Geraldo Boldewijn (Sr.)	81	Dallas Burroughs (Jr.)
WR	34	Kirby Moore (Sr.)	11	Shane Williams-Rhodes (So.)
LT	78	**Charles Leno Jr. (Sr.)**	67	Rees Odhiambo (So.)
LG	77	Spencer Gerke (Sr.)	73	Travis Averill (Fr.)
C	65	**Matt Paradis (Sr.)**	77	Spencer Gerke (Sr.)
RG	72	Marcus Henry (So.)	66	Mario Yakoo (Fr.)
RT	67	Rees Odhiambo (So.)	76	Jake Broyles (Sr.)
TE	87	Gabe Linehan (Sr.)	85	Holden Huff (So.)
QB	16	**Joe Southwick (Sr.)**	9	Grant Hedrick (Jr.)
RB	27	Jay Ajayi (So.)	21	Jack Fields (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	8	**Demarcus Lawrence (Jr.)**	53	Beau Martin (Jr.)
DT	43	**Ricky Tjong-A-Tjoe (Sr.)**	40	Armand Nance (Fr.)
DT	69	Tyler Horn (Jr.)	55	Deuce Mataele (Jr.)
DE	82	**Sam Ukwuachu (So.)**	41	Kharyee Marshall (Sr.)
WLB	36	Tyler Gray (So.)	51	Ben Weaver (Fr.)
MLB	13	Blake Renaud (Jr.)	45	Travis Saxton (Jr.)
N	38	Corey Bell (Jr.)	32	Jonathan Brown (Sr.)
CB	1	Bryan Douglas (Jr.)	16	Deon'tae Florence (Jr.)
CB	30	Donte Deayon (So.)	15	Chaz Anderson (Fr.)
S	10	**Jeremy Ioane (Jr.)**	28	Dillon Lukehart (So.)
S	35	**Darian Thompson (So.)**	34	Taylor Loffler (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26	Tyler Rausa (So.)	KR	11	Shane Williams-Rhodes (So.)
P	14	Trevor Harman (Sr.)	PR	11	Shane Williams-Rhodes (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joe Southwick, 371-248-2,730-7, 19 TDs

Rushing: Jay Ajayi, 82 att., 548 yds., 4 TDs

Receiving: Matt Miller, 66 rec., 769 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Jeremy Ioane, 70

Sacks: Demarcus Lawrence, 9.5

Interceptions: Jeremy Ioane, 3; Darian Thompson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Boise State has streamlined its offensive playbook to remove what coach Chris Petersen called "dead weight" accumulated during 12 seasons of Petersen as offensive coordinator (2001-05) or head coach (2006-12). The catalyst: A subpar offensive showing last season, when the Broncos averaged 30.2 points per game — the program's worst output since 1998.

The tweaks should work, given the returning talent. The Broncos have a returning starter at quarterback, senior Joe Southwick, and retained four of last season's top five rushers and six of the top eight receivers, statistically. The offensive line boasts All-Mountain West center Matt Paradis, third-year starting left tackle Charles Leno Jr. and veteran utility man Spencer Gerke, all seniors.

Sophomore tailback Jay Ajayi, a powerful runner who averaged 6.7 yards per carry as the backup last year, leads a young stable of running backs. Junior Matt Miller, who has 128 catches and 14 touchdowns in his first two seasons, tops a deep receiving corps that could get breakout seasons from senior Geraldo Boldewijn and sophomore Shane Williams-Rhodes. Sophomore tight end Holden Huff, who is 6'5", provides a mismatch over the middle.

4

Boise State has not lost a game by more than four points since November 2007, when the Broncos dropped a 39-27 decision at Hawaii.

DEFENSE The Broncos have been so good on defense the past five seasons that's it's easy to assume the group will be terrific again in 2013. But that was the thought on the offensive side last year. Boise State lost three of its top four defensive tackles, all three starting linebackers and both starting cornerbacks. That exodus includes three All-Mountain West first-teamers.

Junior end Demarcus Lawrence could earn some All-America buzz. The former junior college transfer led the Mountain West with 9.5 sacks last season despite missing two games for a violation of team rules. He also was fifth on the team with 48 tackles and first with four forced fumbles. The other starting end is Sam Ukwuachu, who had 4.5 sacks en route to Freshman All-America honors. Senior returning starter Ricky Tjong-A-Tjoe leads the tackle rotation.

Junior linebacker Blake Renaud, a hard-hitting 249 pounds, should clog the middle. He's backed by two returning starters at safety, junior Jeremy Ioane and sophomore Darian Thompson.

Perhaps the biggest concern is at cornerback. Bryan Douglas tore an ACL last season and will have to work back into game shape during fall camp. The rest of the corners have joined the roster in the last year.

SPECIALISTS The Broncos are looking for a kicker — again. Junior Dan Goodale, who missed the potential game-winner in 2011 vs. TCU, and sophomore transfer Tyler Rausa are competing. Senior punter Trevor Harman returns. But the most intriguing special teamer is Williams-Rhodes, the ultra-quick, 5'6", 158-pound receiver. He provided a key kickoff return in last year's bowl win and likely will return punts, too.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Broncos should be much improved on offense and experience some growing pains on defense — a reversal of last season. Depth could be an issue, particularly on defense.

The key to the season might be how they start. Six of the first eight games are against 2012 bowl teams — and four of those are on the road. The Broncos will compete in the new Mountain Division of the Mountain West, where up-and-coming Utah State and always-tricky Air Force are their top rivals.

As usual, an undefeated run and BCS berth seem possible. Petersen, in fact, has lost a combined total of two games in four seasons with a returning starter at quarterback. But the margin for error may be small with new players providing much of the depth and so many tests on the road.

Head Coach: Chris Petersen
Record at School: 84-8 (7 years)
Career Record: 84-8 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Prince
Defensive Coordinator: Pete Kwiatkowski
Boise, ID
Bronco Stadium (37,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 12-1, 8-0 (MWC)

August		
31	at Washington	
September		
7	Tennessee-Martin	
13	Air Force	
20	at Fresno State	
28	Southern Miss	
October		
12	at Utah State	
19	Nevada	
25	at BYU	
November		
2	at Colorado State	
16	Wyoming	
23	at San Diego State	
30	New Mexico	

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Aug.	31	at Michigan State	L	13-17
Sept.	15	Miami (Ohio)	W	39-12
Sept.	20	BYU	W	7-6
Sept.	29	at New Mexico	W	32-29
Oct.	6	at Southern Miss	W	40-14
Oct.	13	Fresno State	W	20-10
Oct.	20	UNLV	W	32-7
Oct.	27	at Wyoming	W	45-14
Nov.	3	San Diego State	L	19-21
Nov.	10	at Hawaii	W	49-14
Nov.	17	Colorado State	W	42-14
Dec.	1	Nevada	W	27-21
Dec.	22	vs. Washington #	W	28-26

#MAACO Bowl Las Vegas

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Joe Martarano, LB, Fruitland, ID
2. Aaron Baltazar, RB, Chula Vista, CA
3. Jake Roh, TE, Scottsdale, AZ
4. Mat Boesen, LB, Torrance, CA
5. Nick Terry, DT, Elk Grove, CA
6. Ryan Finley, QB, Phoenix, AZ
7. Mercy Maston, CB, Bakersfield, CA*
8. Deuce Mataele, DL, West Valley, UT*
9. Kendal Keys, WR, San Diego, CA
10. Andrew Tercek, OL, San Antonio, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	30.2 ppg	4	54
Rushing	168.2 ypg	5	55
Passing	223.2 ypg	4	70
Total	391.3 ypg	5	68
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	15.8 ppg	1	8
Rushing	146.2 ypg	2	46
Passing	169.5 ypg	2	5
Total	315.6 ypg	1	12
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
+20	+1.54	1	2

Colorado State RAMS

NATIONAL FORECAST 95
MWC MOUNTAIN PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Jim McElwain
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 4-8 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Baldwin
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Marty English, Al Simmons
Fort Collins, CO
Hughes Stadium (32,500)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-8, 3-5 (MWC)

September		
1	vs. Colorado #	
7	at Tulsa	
14	Cal Poly	
21	at Alabama	
28	UTEP	
October		
12	San Jose State	
19	at Wyoming	
26	at Hawaii	
November		
2	Boise State	
9	Nevada	
16	at New Mexico	
23	at Utah State	
30	Air Force	

#Denver, CO

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Sept.	1	vs. Colorado %	W	22–17
Sept.	8	North Dakota State	L	7–22
Sept.	15	at San Jose State	L	20–40
Sept.	22	Utah State	L	19–31
Sept.	29	at Air Force	L	21–42
Oct.	6	Fresno State	L	7–28
Oct.	13	at San Diego State	L	14–38
Oct.	27	Hawaii	W	42–27
Nov.	3	at Wyoming	L	31–45
Nov.	10	UNLV	W	33–11
Nov.	17	at Boise State	L	14–42
Nov.	24	New Mexico	W	24–20

%Denver

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. LaRyan King, DT, Fairfield, CA*
2. Kapri Bibbs, RB, Plainfield, IL *
3. Austin Berk, DE, Grand Junction, CO
4. Terry Jackson, DT, Tulsa, OK*
5. Bryce Peters, RB, Houston, TX
6. Elroy Masters, WR, Peoria, AZ
7. Blake Nowland, OL, Castle Rock, CO
8. Nick Stevens, QB, Murrieta, CA
9. Zack Golditch, OL, Aurora, CO
10. Jake Bennett, OL, Morrison, CO

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	21.2 ppg	9	100
Rushing	128.8 ypg	8	95
Passing	210.2 ypg	6	84
Total	339.0 ypg	9	100
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	30.3 ppg	6	79
Rushing	202.4 ypg	7	103
Passing	203.2 ypg	4	26
Total	405.6 ypg	5	69
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
-5	-0.42	7	88

OFFENSE The Rams went into 2012 with no experienced quarterbacks. They now have two. Garrett Grayson started the first five games before breaking his collarbone. Strong-armed Conner Smith started four of the last five games, earning three of the team's four wins. Grayson, the better runner and leader, likely will start, but Smith and redshirt freshman Craig Leonard will challenge to lead what should be a productive offense.

Running back will be a team strength, with Donnell Alexander, Chris Nwoke and Tommey Morris returning after combining to average 5.0 yards per carry in 2012. Davon Riddick and junior college transfer Kapri Bibbs complete a talented group with intriguing potential.

The line returns all five starters, including savvy senior center Weston Richburg, and should be solid.

The receiving corps is the big question — as it was in 2012. Wideout Charles Lovett is small but fast, and the Rams boast a terrific 1-2 punch at tight end with Crockett Gillmore and Kivon Cartwright. Second-year coach Jim McElwain is hoping redshirt freshman Jordon Vaden or holdovers Joe Hansley or Thomas Coffman can become the go-to guy the offense sorely lacks.

DEFENSE Colorado State couldn't stop the run in 2012 and could not get off the field on third down — areas that must improve.

24
CSU's offense entered the red zone only 24 times in 2012 — tied for fewest in the country. It's no wonder the Rams averaged only 21.2 points.

The good news is that the linebackers are legitimate. Senior Shaq Barrett, who has proven pretty much every spot in the front seven, is a proven playmaker and one of the Mountain West's best, while Cory James is coming off a stellar freshman season. Aaron Davis and Max Morgan round out a solid unit.

The secondary relies on cornerback Shaq Bell to make plays, while Bernard Blake and DeAndre Elliott also have starting experience at corner. Trent Matthews returns at strong safety, and Kevin Pierre-Louis shows promise at free safety.

Unless the Rams can shore up the line, however, it won't matter how good the linebackers and secondary play. Opponents converted 48.4 percent of their third downs last year, mostly because the line offered little resistance, allowing other teams to average 4.7 yards per rush. McElwain hit the junior college ranks hard and signed LaRyan King and Terry Jackson to provide immediate help while hoping returnees Calvin Tonga and Curtis Wilson can improve.

SPECIALISTS The Rams lose one of the best punters in school history in Pete Kontodiakos but return kicker Jared Roberts, who went from unknown walk-on to second-team All-Mountain West last year. Lovett, Coffman and Hansley are terrific return specialists.

FINAL ANALYSIS McElwain, the former Alabama offensive coordinator, cobbled together four wins in his first season, including three in league play. That marked progress for a program that had won a combined three MWC games in the previous three seasons. On closer inspection, however, you realize that the Rams' victories came over teams that went a combined 10–40, while they lost eight games by an average of 19.4 points.

Unlike last year, McElwain has two experienced quarterbacks, which should help immensely. The running backs and line should be good, and if the receivers come through, the Rams should be able to score enough to be in most games. Defense remains the primary concern. Unless they can find a way to stop the run and get off the field on third down, every game will be a struggle.

Realistically, the Rams are a year or two away from having a legitimate chance of cracking the MWC's upper echelon. In the meantime, they should be better in 2013 — even if it doesn't show in their record.

DONNELL ALEXANDER

THE QUOTE

"Offensively, I didn't think they had anybody that you felt you had to double-team. You could basically run whatever you wanted to run."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	25	Joe Hansley (So.)	12	Austin Gray (Jr.)
WR	4	Charles Lovett (Jr.)	2	Thomas Coffman (Jr.)
LT	51	**Ty Sambrailo (Jr.)**	76	Nick Callender (Fr.)
LG	75	**Brandon Haynes (Sr.)**	50	Mason Myers (Jr.)
C	70	**Weston Richburg (Sr.)**	54	Fred Zerblis (Fr.)
RG	64	**Jordan Gragert (Sr.)**	55	A.J. Frieler (So.)
RT	78	**Jared Biard (Sr.)**	73	Tomas Rivera (Fr.)
TE	10	**Crockett Gillmore (Sr.)**	86	**Kivon Cartwright (Jr.)**
QB	18	Garrett Grayson (Jr.)	15	Conner Smith (So.)
HB	30	Jake Levin (Sr.)	34	Joe Brown (Sr.)
RB	7	**Donnell Alexander (So.)**	6	Chris Nwoke (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	99	Eli Edwards (Sr.)	91	Austin Berk (Fr.)
DT	97	Calvin Tonga (Sr.)	94	LaRyan King (So.)
DT	96	Curtis Wilson (Sr.)	93	Terry Jackson (So.)
E/LB	56	**Shaquil Barrett (Sr.)**	4	Steven Michel (So.)
OLB	31	**Cory James (So.)**	36	Bryan Ohene (Fr.)
MLB	40	Max Morgan (Jr.)	33	Kevin Davis (So.)
OLB	37	**Aaron Davis (Jr.)**	45	Nu'uvali Fa'apito (So.)
CB	23	Bernard Blake (Jr.)	19	**DeAndre Elliott (So.)**
CB	3	**Shaq Bell (Sr.)**	17	Jasen Oden (So.)
SS	16	**Trent Matthews (So.)**	22	Nick Januska (So.)
FS	26	Kevin Pierre-Louis (So.)	28	Conner Roggy (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	94	Jared Roberts (Jr.)	KR	2	Thomas Coffman (Jr.)
P	49	Hayden Hunt (Fr.)	PR	25	Joe Hansley (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Garrett Grayson, 138-78-946-3, 7 TDs
Rushing: Donnell Alexander, 117 att., 587 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Charles Lovett, 35 rec., 428 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Aaron Davis, 84
Sacks: Cory James, 7.5
Interceptions: DeAndre Elliott, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Colorado State SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **100**

MWC MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **6**

New Mexico LOBOS

KASEY CARRIER

THE QUOTE

"Eventually they'll get a quarterback who can throw and pass, and they'll be dangerous. Bob (Davie) can coach. They are well-prepared."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	87	Jeric Magnant (Jr.)	25	Chase Clayton (Jr.)
WR	81	Marquis Bundy (So.)	19	Ridge Jones (Fr.)
WR	24	Carlos Wiggins (So.)	82	Cameron DeBesse (So.)
LT	**71**	**Darryl Johnson (Sr.)**	79	Bryan Oldenkamp (So.)
LG	**66**	**LaMar Bratton (Jr.)**	61	Calvin McDowney (Sr.)
C	**63**	**Dillon Farrell (Sr.)**	66	LaMar Bratton (Jr.)
RG	**77**	**Garrett Adcock (So.)**	56	Johnny Vizcaino (So.)
RT	77	Jamal Price (Jr.)	76	Dillon Romine (So.)
TE	89	Andrew Aho (Sr.)	48	Chris Edling (So.)
QB	8	Cole Gautsche (So.)		Clayton Mitchem (Jr.)
RB	**5**	**Kasey Carrier (Sr.)**	6	Jhurell Pressley (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	**90**	**Jacori Greer (Sr.)**		Brett Bowers (Jr.)
NT	93	Dominic Twitty (So.)	71	Paytron Hightower (So.)
DT	99	Fatu Ulale (Sr.)	95	Gerron Borne (So.)
LB	18	Javarie Johnson (Jr.)	9	Richard Winston (So.)
LB	**10**	**Rashad Rainey (Sr.)**	45	Tevin Newman (Jr.)
LB	**41**	**Dallas Bollema (Sr.)**	33	David Orvick (Sr.)
LB	55	Toby Ball (Jr.)	28	Trajuan Briggs (Jr.)
CB	15	SaQwan Edwards (Jr.)	3	Vershad Jackson (So.)
CB	27	Cranston Jones (So.)	2	Rashad Jackson (So.)
S	31	Dante Caro (Sr.)	36	Brandon Branch (So.)
S	26	Jamal Merritt (Jr.)		David Guthrie (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Justus Adams (Sr.)	**KR** 25	Chase Clayton (Jr.)
P	35	Ben Skaer (Sr.)	**PR** 14	Tim Foley (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cole Gautsche, 31-13-222-2, 2 TDs

Rushing: Kasey Carrier, 255 att., 1,469 yds., 15 TDs

Receiving: Kasey Carrier, 10 rec,. 75 yds., 0 TDs

Tackles: Rashad Rainey, 40

Sacks: Jacori Greer, 5

Interceptions: Cranston Jones, 1; Tevin Newman, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE The goal for the New Mexico offense in 2013 is clear: Develop a passing attack that can complement one of the most productive running games in the country.

Quarterback Cole Gautsche, an ideal fit as a runner for Bob Davie's Pistol attack, will be given the chance to develop his passing skills, which were clearly lacking when he started four games late last season as a freshman in place of the injured B.R. Holbrook. Gautsche completed 11-of-23 passes for 198 yards and two touchdowns in those four games, throwing to a receiving corps that has mostly departed. Should Gautsche struggle, junior college transfer Clayton Mitchem will be given a shot to take over the offense. Mitchem is a dual threat who threw for 2,435 yards and ran for 728 at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in 2012.

If the passing game can advance enough for defenses to respect it, a strong running game will become that much stronger. New Mexico was fifth nationally with 301.3 rushing yards per game and second in the nation in time of possession. Workhorse Kasey Carrier set a school record with 1,469 yards on 255 carries despite playing with some nagging injuries. At 5'9", 185 pounds, Carrier has trouble withstanding the constant pounding. Look for DeMarcus Rodgers, who had 103 yards in the season opener before missing the last 10 games with a knee injury, and Jhurell Pressley to lighten Carrier's load.

79

New Mexico, as a team, completed only 79 passes in 2012. Only Army, with 51, completed fewer.

DEFENSE Like the offense, New Mexico's defense also made strides in Davie's first season, but the gains were not as great, and more questions remain as 2013 approaches. Eight starters have departed, leaving some young — but in some cases experienced — players to continue the progress.

The glaring weakness last season was defending the pass. New Mexico ranked 103rd in the nation, allowing 269.2 passing yards per game. All four starters from the back line are gone, giving this group a fresh start. Cranston Jones started the final three games at corner as a true freshman, but his size (5'9", 167) is an issue. Junior college transfer David Guthrie will be called upon early at safety, and SaQwan Edwards and David Anaya have moved from offense to bolster the beleaguered secondary.

The front seven is in better shape, with the Lobos' best two linebackers returning in Dallas Bollema and Rashad Rainey. Toby Ball and Javarie Johnson will likely fill the other two spots, and both have the full confidence of the coaching staff. Defensive end Jacori Greer led the Lobos in sacks with five, and hopes are high for senior defensive tackle Fatu Ulale, who is coming off a redshirt season.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Justus Adams and punter Ben Skaer both return. Adams had a solid season as a junior, connecting on 9-of-13 field goals, but he has limited range, attempting just two from beyond 40 yards (making one). Skaer helped New Mexico lead the Mountain West in net punting at over 39 yards per kick. Return man Chase Clayton gives the Lobos a weapon, finishing as the No. 5 kick returner in the nation with an average of 30.4 yards per return.

FINAL ANALYSIS There was nowhere to go but up when Davie came in last season to a program that had won only one game in each of the previous three seasons and was routinely blown out. Not only did the Lobos win four in Davie's debut season, but they also lost five others by seven points or less. Can the improvement continue? The staff has certainly proven to be an upgrade, so one year under its belt should help. But there are still significant personnel issues. The defense, once Davie's calling card, and the passing game must improve for the Lobos to break through and reach .500.

Head Coach: Bob Davie
Record at School: 4-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 39-34 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob DeBesse
Defensive Coordinator: Jeff Mills
Albuquerque, NM
University Stadium (39,224)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (MWC)

August	
31	UTSA
September	
7	at UTEP
14	at Pittsburgh
28	UNLV
October	
5	New Mexico State
12	at Wyoming
19	Utah State
November	
2	at San Diego State
8	Air Force
16	Colorado State
23	at Fresno State
30	at Boise State

2012 RESULTS (4-9, 1-7)

Sept.	1	Southern	W	66-21
Sept.	8	at Texas	L	0-45
Sept.	15	at Texas Tech	L	14-49
Sept.	22	at New Mexico State	W	27-14
Sept.	29	Boise State	L	29-32
Oct.	6	Texas State	W	35-14
Oct.	13	at Hawaii	W	35-23
Oct.	20	at Air Force	L	23-28
Oct.	27	Fresno State	L	32-49
Nov.	3	at UNLV	L	7-35
Nov.	10	Wyoming	L	23-28
Nov.	17	Nevada	L	24-31
Nov.	24	at Colorado State	L	20-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Isaiah Brown, DB, Katy, TX
2. Teriyon Gipson, RB, Dallas, TX
3. William Udeh, DE, Coppell, TX
4. Dakota Cox, LB, Draper, UT
5. Lamar Jordan, QB, Frisco, TX
6. Kimmie Carson, LB, Tulsa, OK
7. David Guthrie, DB, Winston, OR*
8. Donnie White, LB, St. Louis, MO
9. Jalyn Judkins, WR, Angleton, TX
10. Romell Jordan, ATH, Rio Rancho, NM

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	25.8 ppg	7	78
Rushing	301.3 ypg	2	5
Passing	68.9 ypg	10	119
Total	370.2 ypg	7	87
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	30.2 ppg	5	78
Rushing	174.9 ypg	4	73
Passing	269.2 ypg	10	103
Total	444.2 ypg	8	97
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
+11	+0.85	3	17

New Mexico SID

Utah State

AGGIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **60**

MWC MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Matt Wells
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Kevin McGiven, Luke Wells
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Orlando
Logan, UT
Romney Stadium (25,513)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (MWC)

August		
29	at Utah	
September		
7	at Air Force	
14	Weber State	
21	at USC	
27	at San Jose State	
October		
4	BYU	
12	Boise State	
19	at New Mexico	
November		
2	Hawaii	
9	at UNLV	
23	Colorado State	
30	Wyoming	

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 6-0)

Aug.	30	Southern Utah		W	34–3
Sept.	7	Utah	(ot)	W	27–20
Sept.	15	at Wisconsin		L	14–16
Sept.	22	at Colorado State		W	31–19
Sept.	29	UNLV		W	35–13
Oct.	5	at BYU		L	3–6
Oct.	13	at San Jose State		W	49–27
Oct.	20	New Mexico State		W	41–7
Oct.	27	at UTSA		W	48–17
Nov.	3	Texas State		W	38–7
Nov.	17	at Louisiana Tech	(ot)	W	48–41
Nov.	24	Idaho		W	45–9
Dec.	15	vs. Toledo #		W	41–15

#Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Rashad Hall, RB, Lynchburg, VA*
2. Marwin Evans, DB, Oak Creek, WI*
3. Ronald Butler, WR, Jersey City, NJ*
4. Ryan Watson, WR, Decatur, AL*
5. Keylon Hollis, LB, Houston, TX*
6. Jeremy Morris, CB, Chandler, AZ*
7. Darell Garretson, QB, Chandler AZ
8. Joe Malanga, OL, South Jordan, UT
9. Myron Turner, S, DeSoto, TX
10. Wyatt Houston, TE, Tualatin, OR

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	34.9 ppg	2	26
Rushing	204.1 ypg	2	26
Passing	265.0 ypg	3	40
Total	469.1 ypg	2	21
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
Scoring	15.4 ppg	1	7
Rushing	113.8 ypg	1	13
Passing	208.3 ypg	1	32
Total	322.1 ypg	1	14
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
-1	-0.08	3	63

OFFENSE For the third straight year, the Aggies will be looking to replace an NFL-bound running back, but as in the past there is a worthy player ready to take over the spotlight. Still, first-year head coach Matt Wells is concerned about depth behind junior Joe Hill, who rushed for 269 yards and seven touchdowns while backing up Kerwynn Williams.

"There are some roles that still need to be defined," says Wells, who was promoted from offensive coordinator when Gary Andersen left to take over at Wisconsin. "Realistically, I'm going to need three back there."

Quarterback Chuckie Keeton, now in his third season as the Aggies' starter, is back and will push for national accolades. In fact, there is already a social media campaign for the junior as a Heisman Trophy candidate. Keeton is a dual-threat who passed for 3,373 yards and rushed for 619 last season, accounting for 35 total touchdowns.

All five starting offensive linemen return, including center Tyler Larsen, who has started 38 straight games.

The biggest concern is who will be catching passes from Keeton. Senior Travis Reynolds, who caught 25 passes for 244 yards, is the top returning wideout. Wells is counting on junior college transfers and incoming freshmen to join the mix of returning players, which include Reynolds, Travis Van Leeuwen and tight end D.J. Tialavea.

16

The Aggies have not given up a touchdown in the first quarter in 16 straight games. A year ago they outscored opponents 138–9 in the opening quarter of play.

DEFENSE Along with losing their head coach, the Aggies also lost their defensive coordinator, Dave Aranda, who followed Andersen to Wisconsin. Todd Orlando, most recently at FIU, is the new defensive boss, and he has breathed new excitement into a good returning group.

"Todd has come in and done a great job of learning our stuff and adding his flavor to it," Wells says. "The kids have responded tremendously to Todd and his energy."

The front seven will be counted on to set the tone. The Aggies allowed just 15.4 points per game and led the nation in red zone defense, allowing opponents to score a touchdown on only 29.6 percent of their trips inside the 20.

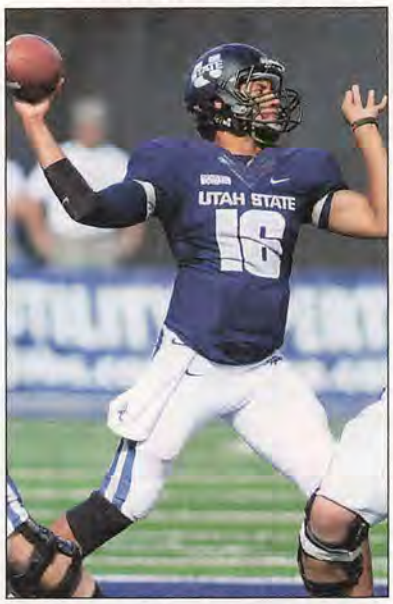
Linebackers Kyler Fackrell, Jake Doughty and Zach Vigil will lead the way after all three earned all-league honors in 2012. The defensive line rotation will feature seven players who saw significant action last season.

Perhaps the biggest addition to the defense is safety Maurice Alexander, who missed last season due to a suspension. He impressed the coaches during the spring and could have a future in the NFL. Cornerback Nevin Lawson has started 28 games.

SPECIALISTS In its only two losses last season, both by three points or less, Utah State went a combined 1-of-3 on field goals, with both misses coming from inside 40 yards. Identifying a consistent placekicker will top the agenda in preseason camp. Jaron Bentrude is in line to replace Tyler Bennett as the punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Aggies return plenty of experience from a team that won 11 games and was ranked No. 16 in the final AP poll. However, the move to the stronger Mountain West will pose plenty of challenges. The non-conference schedule is difficult as well, with trips to Utah and USC and a home date with BYU.

There could be a few hiccups with the transition from Andersen to Wells, but there have been no significant changes in philosophy, which should help this veteran team pick up where it left off. USU has won 16 of its last 19 games, and the three losses were by a combined six points. Another bowl game should be in the Aggies' sights.



CHUCKIE KEETON

THE QUOTE

"There's an art form to holding. You can be a really good DB if you can learn to do it without getting flagged. They don't get flagged."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	7	Travis Van Leeuwen (Sr.)		Ronald Butler (Jr.)
WR	18	Bruce Natson (So.)		Ryan Watson (Jr.)
WR	8	Travis Reynolds (Sr.)	85	Brandon Swindall (So.)
LT	74	**Kevin Whimpey (Jr.)**	79	Logan Malohifo'ou (So.)
LG	54	**Jamie Markosian (Sr.)**	75	Taani Fisilau (So.)
C	58	**Tyler Larsen (Sr.)**	60	Joe Summers (Jr.)
RG	73	**Kyle Whimpey (Sr.)**	77	Sini Tauauve'a (Sr.)
RT	66	**Eric Schultz (Sr.)**	76	Jake Simonich (Fr.)
TE	91	**D.J. Tialavea (Sr.)**	22	Keegan Andersen (Jr.)
QB	16	**Chuckie Keeton (Jr.)**	12	Craig Harrison (Jr.)
RB	32	Joe Hill (Jr.)	28	Joey DeMartino (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	99	B.J. Larsen (Jr.)	97	Jordan Nielsen (So.)
NG	56	A.J. Pataiali'i (Sr.)	96	**Elvis Kamana-Matagi (Jr.)**
DE	40	**Connor Williams (Sr.)**	48	Paul Piukala (Sr.)
OLB	52	**Kyler Fackrell (So.)**	47	Travis Parrish (Fr.)
ILB	51	**Jake Doughty (Sr.)**	16	Tavaris McMillian (Jr.)
ILB	53	**Zach Vigil (Jr.)**	41	Nick Vigil (Fr.)
OLB	12	Terrell Thompson (Sr.)	23	Michael Okonkwo (So.)
CB	17	Tay Glover-Wright (Sr.)	6	Rashard Stewart (Jr.)
CB	1	**Nevin Lawson (Sr.)**		Jeremy Morris (Jr.)
SS	5	Maurice Alexander (Sr.)	46	Frankie Sutera (Jr.)
FS	21	**Brian Suite (Jr.)**	2	Cameron Sanders (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	93	Nick Diaz (Jr.)	KR	1	Nevin Lawson (Sr.)
P	38	Jaron Bentrude (Jr.)	PR	18	Bruce Natson (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chuckie Keaton, 407-275-3,373-9, 27 TDs
Rushing: Chuckie Keaton, 129 att., 619 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Travis Reynolds, 25 rec., 244 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Jake Doughty, 109
Sacks: Connor Williams, 6
Interceptions: Kyler Fackrell, 3

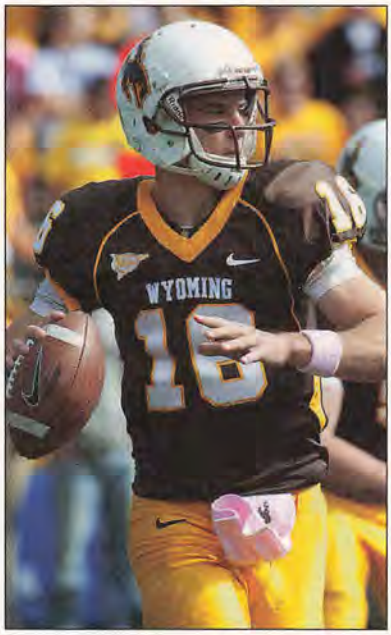
(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Utah State SID

NATIONAL FORECAST

MWC MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **4**

Wyoming COWBOYS



BRETT SMITH

University of Wyoming Photo Service

OFFENSE One of the Mountain West's best quarterbacks was severely limited last year, and his offense struggled as a result. Brett Smith — who spent his sophomore season dealing with, recovering from and playing through two head injuries — is healthy heading into his junior year. That's a plus for the Pokes, considering that Smith put up these numbers in just 10 games as a sophomore: 205-of-330 for 2,837 yards and 27 touchdowns.

Smith and his stocked stable of receivers will be working in an updated offense this year. Former Wyoming offensive coordinator Gregg Brandon left Laramie to take a job at New Mexico State, and Wyoming head coach Dave Christensen has announced he will call the plays.

Christensen, who ran Missouri's offense before taking the head job in Laramie, promises a sped-up attack that will continue to work out of the spread. Changes to watch for are the incorporation of a tight end — the Pokes signed junior college transfer J.D. Krill, who is 6'6", 255 pounds — and an emphasis on running the ball better. The Cowboys averaged 3.4 yards per carry (ninth in the Mountain West) and scored 13 rushing touchdowns (tied for eighth in the league) last season. D.J. May was the team's top rusher, with only 374 yards, as a true freshman.

11

Wyoming quarterback Brett Smith ranked 11th in the nation last season in passing efficiency (157.6) and 11th in yards per attempt (8.6).

DEFENSE Wyoming's defense is getting a reputation as one of the worst in the Mountain West, if not all of college football. In a 10-team-league last season, the Cowboys were eighth in scoring defense, eighth in passing defense and 10th in rushing defense. Wyoming surrendered 33.4 points per game. Teams torched the Pokes on the ground (232.3 ypg) and through the air (237.9 ypg).

Defensive coordinator Chris Tormey enters his second season trying to turn around a unit that was bad when he arrived and made no major gains in his first season in Laramie. The emphasis, as Tormey has said repeatedly, is getting better at stopping the run.

Wyoming went after junior college recruits in hopes of plugging the holes with ready-to-play talent, and several of the transfers enrolled in the spring. The signees include linebackers Malkaam Muhammad and Jordan Stanton, safety Jesse Sampson and defensive lineman Troy Boyland.

The Cowboys also redshirted the most players in Christensen's tenure last year. Those freshly eligible additions — most notably defensive lineman Uso Olive — should add some depth on the defensive side of the ball.

For Wyoming to make waves in the Mountain West, the new faces and redshirt freshmen will have to make an instant impact.

SPECIALISTS There should be plenty of room for competition for the field goal kicking job. Junior Stuart Williams is most likely the man, but he made only 7-of-12 attempts last year. Sophomore punter Tim Gleeson, who came on strong to finish the year with a 43.0-yard average, left the team during the spring. Wyoming was among the best in the nation in returning punts (13.4-yard average) but among the worst in returning kickoffs (18.0-yard average).

FINAL ANALYSIS After a 4–8 finish last fall (3–5 in the MWC), this is a pivotal season for the Pokes. And Christensen knows it. With the revamped Mountain West bringing new talent to the competition — and with more eyes focused on the league — the Cowboys need to finish in the upper half to prove that last year was a misstep, not a preview of more disappointing seasons to come.

There's a lot on the line in Laramie this season. Expect Christensen's team to play like it.

THE QUOTE

"Interesting team. Thought a year ago they might be top three or four in the conference. But the quarterback, Brett Smith, got hurt."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	33	**Dominic Rufran (Jr.)**	3	Trey Norman (Jr.)
WR	1	**Jalen Claiborne (Jr.)**	81	Justin Berger (Jr.)
WR	6	**Robert Herron (Sr.)**	19	Keenan Montgomery (Jr.)
LT	74	Walker Madden (Jr.)	78	Nathan Leddige (Fr.)
LG	51	**Tyler Strong (Sr.)**	62	Josh Teeter (Fr.)
C	73	Chase Roullier (Fr.)	63	Rafe Kiely (So.)
RG	72	**Jake Jones (So.)**	76	Jacob English (Fr.)
RT	77	Connor Rains (Jr.)	71	Austin Traphagan (So.)
TE	80	J.D. Krill (Jr.)	42	Riley Lange (Jr.)
QB	16	**Brett Smith (Jr.)**	17	Jason Thompson (So.)
RB	7	D.J. May (So.)	8	**Brandon Miller (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (6)

DE	55	Eddie Yarbrough (So.)	31	Jeff Roueche (Sr.)
NT	90	Uso Olive (Fr.)	57	Chase Appleby (Fr.)
DT	95	Patrick Mertens (Sr.)	91	Troy Boyland (Jr.)
BUCK	12	**Sonny Puletasi (Jr.)**	34	**Siaosi Hala'api'api (So.)**
SAM	21	Mark Nzeocha (Jr.)	15	Nehemie Kankolongo (Jr.)
MIKE	43	Devyn Harris (Sr.)	1	Jordan Stanton (Jr.)
WILL	45	Lucas Wacha (Fr.)	3	Jeff Lark (So.)
CB	20	**Blair Burns (Jr.)**	4	DeAndre Jones (Jr.)
CB	2	**Marqueston Huff (Sr.)**	24	Zaquoya Parham (So.)
SS	13	**Darrenn White (Jr.)**	16	Cortland Fort (Fr.)
FS	5	Jesse Sampson (Jr.)	7	**Chad Reese (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Stuart Williams (Jr.)	KR	7	D.J. May (So.)
P	40	Stuart Williams (Jr.)	PR	20	Blair Burns (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brett Smith, 330-205-2,837-6, 27 TDs

Rushing: D.J. May, 77 att., 374 yds., 1 TD

Receiving: Dominic Rufran, 39 rec., 529 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Blair Burns, 60

Sacks: Eddie Yarbrough, 4

Interceptions: Chad Reese, 3

[#] Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Head Coach: Dave Christensen
Record at School: 22-28 (4 years)
Career Record: 22-28 (4 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Jim Harding, Pete Kaligis
Defensive Coordinator: Chris Tormey
Laramie, WY
War Memorial Stadium (29,181)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-4 (MWC)

August	
31	at Nebraska
September	
7	Idaho
14	Northern Colorado
21	at Air Force
28	at Texas State
October	
12	New Mexico
19	Colorado State
26	at San Jose State
November	
9	Fresno State
16	at Boise State
23	Hawaii
30	at Utah State

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Sept. 1	at Texas		L	17–37
Sept. 8	Toledo		L	31–34
Sept. 15	Cal Poly		L	22–24
Sept. 22	at Idaho		W	40–37
Oct. 6	at Nevada	(ot)	L	28–35
Oct. 13	Air Force		L	27–28
Oct. 20	at Fresno State		L	14–42
Oct. 27	Boise State		L	14–45
Nov. 3	Colorado State		W	45–31
Nov. 10	at New Mexico		W	28–23
Nov. 17	at UNLV		W	28–23
Nov. 24	San Diego State		L	28–42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Stanton, LB, Palmdale, CA*
2. J.D. Krill, TE, Mission Viejo, CA*
3. Jeff Lark, LB, Cedar Hill, TX*
4. Connor Riese, T, Schofield, WI
5. Malkaam Muhammad, LB, St. Joseph, MO*
6. James Diamanti, DT, Grand Junction, CO
7. Jesse Sampson, S, Canoga Park, CA*
8. Ryan Anaya, LB, Casper, WY
9. Troy Boyland, DT, Palo Alto, CA*
10. Albert Perez, C, Los Angeles, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	26.8 ppg	6	72
Rushing	125.2 ypg	9	99
Passing	265.4 ypg	2	38
Total	390.6 ypg	6	70
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	33.4 ppg	8	97
Rushing	232.3 ypg	10	117
Passing	237.9 ypg	8	67
Total	470.3 ypg	10	106
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
+7	+0.58	4	30

Fresno State BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST 22
MWC WEST PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Tim DeRuyter
Record at School: 9-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 10-4 (1+ year)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Schramm
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Toth
Fresno, CA
Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 6-2 (MWC)

August		
29	Rutgers	
September		
7	Cal Poly	
14	at Colorado	
20	Boise State	
28	at Hawaii	
October		
5	at Idaho	
19	UNLV	
26	at San Diego State	
November		
2	Nevada	
9	at Wyoming	
23	New Mexico	
29	at San Jose State	

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 7-1)

Sept.	1	Weber State	W	37-10
Sept.	8	at Oregon	L	25-42
Sept.	15	Colorado	W	69-14
Sept.	22	at Tulsa	L	26-27
Sept.	29	San Diego State	W	52-40
Oct.	6	at Colorado State	W	28-7
Oct.	13	at Boise State	L	10-20
Oct.	20	Wyoming	W	42-14
Oct.	27	at New Mexico	W	49-32
Nov.	3	Hawaii	W	45-10
Nov.	10	at Nevada	W	52-36
Nov.	24	Air Force	W	48-15
Dec.	24	vs. SMU #	L	10-43

#Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Zack Greenlee, QB, Stockton, CA
2. Treshon Broughton, CB, Murrieta, CA
3. Dontel James, RB, Fontana, CA
4. Da'Mari Scott, WR, Los Angeles, CA
5. Ioane Sagapolu, DL, Honolulu, HI*
6. David Patterson, C, Irvine, CA
7. Ryan Steele, NG, Kingsburg, CA
8. Claudell Louis, DE, Boynton Beach, FL*
9. Sean Rubalcava, OL, Norwalk, CA*
10. Randon Knotts, DB, Austin, TX

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	37.9 ppg	1	17
Rushing	151.9 ypg	6	67
Passing	325.6 ypg	1	12
Total	477.5 ypg	2	16
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	23.9 ppg	2	37
Rushing	171.7 ypg	3	71
Passing	167.2 ypg	1	2
Total	338.9 ypg	2	22
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
+15	+1.15	2	7

OFFENSE When Derek Carr announced that he was returning for his senior year, Fresno coach Tim DeRuyter must've let out a deep sigh of relief. The 2012 Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year ranked eighth nationally with 4,104 passing yards and possessed a sparkling 37-to-7 TD-to-interception ratio. And Carr did it playing through a sports hernia that required offseason surgery. He returned for spring practice.

Carr has his entire weapons arsenal back. Davante Adams exploded on the scene as a freshman to lead the Mountain West in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns. Adams and 6'6" Victor Dean are both dangerous deep threats, while Isaiah Burse and Josh Harper man the slot positions. You'd have to look long and hard to find a deeper receiving corps.

The Bulldogs have work to do at running back to replace Robbie Rouse, their all-time leading rusher. BYU transfer Josh Quezada and Marteze Waller battled for the job in the spring, along with converted fullback Malique Micenheimer. Waller can really turn on the jets, but Quezada is better at pass protection and receiving.

Aside from All-Mountain West left tackle Austin Wentworth and right guard Cody Wichmann, the line won't be settled until fall camp. To bolster what was a glaring weakness in the Hawaii Bowl, DeRuyter signed four junior college transfers, something Fresno State hasn't often done.

63

Derek Carr's 63 career touchdown passes rank third among active quarterbacks behind Georgia's Aaron Murray and Clemson's Tajh Boyd.

DEFENSE Anyone who doubts what a difference coaching and scheme can make should compare Fresno State game films from 2012 to those of the past. DeRuyter and defensive coordinator Nick Toth brought in an attacking 3-4 scheme that gave the Bulldogs a new identity, and there's no reason the defense won't be just as good or better despite the loss of All-America safety Phillip Thomas.

It starts up front, where All-MWC nose guard Tyeler Davison headlines a unit that returns all three starters and a key reserve and welcomes two junior college transfers expected to hit the ground running.

There's depth at linebacker, too, even though pass-rusher Donavon Lewis might be the only returner who keeps his starting job. Kyrie Wilson, moving inside to take over Travis Brown's old weak-side position, will take on the most new responsibilities.

All-Mountain West free safety Derron Smith, who had six interceptions last season and was the team's second-leading tackler, heads a secondary that also returns both starting corners. Charles Washington, the backup free safety, converted to strong safety during spring practice and made such a strong impression that the job looks to be his.

SPECIALISTS It's been a couple years since the Bulldogs had a scholarship placekicker. Freshman Colin McGuire will take over as soon as he gets his dorm key. Garrett Swanson, who handled kickoff duties last fall, is the new punter. Fresno State ranked in the bottom half of the league in both punt and kickoff returns — something that shouldn't happen with its array of talent at the skill positions.

FINAL ANALYSIS What a difference a year makes. DeRuyter came in and turned things around so quickly that there were whispers he might already be headed to greener pastures. Those rumors are sure to crop up again if this team fulfills its potential.

Fresno State should have a lethal passing attack — provided the revamped line can keep Carr upright — and a formidable defense. The schedule is favorable, too. The Bulldogs open at home against Rutgers, play a winnable non-conference slate and get nemesis Boise State at home during Mountain West play. Anything short of another league title would be a disappointment.

DEREK CARR

AP Photo/Matt Cilley

THE QUOTE

"Derek Carr doesn't play particularly well when pressured. But he can read coverage and put the ball on spots."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	15	**Davante Adams (So.)**	81	Justin Johnson (So.)
WR	1	**Isaiah Burse (Sr.)**	10	Greg Watson (Jr.)
WR	3	Josh Harper (Jr.)	5	Victor Dean (Jr.)
LT	72	**Austin Wentworth (Sr.)**		Kolby Drew (Jr.)
LG		Sean Rubalcava (Jr.)	74	James Le'au (Sr.)
C	56	**Lars Bramer (Sr.)**	53	Mike Saenz (Sr.)
RG	73	**Cody Wichmann (Jr.)**	64	Patrick Kim (Jr.)
RT	76	Alex Fifita (So.)	54	Justin Northern (So.)
TE	89	**Marcel Jensen (Sr.)**	45	Riley Barnes (Jr.)
QB	4	**Derek Carr (Sr.)**	6	Myles Carr (Fr.)
RB	20	Josh Quezada (Jr.)	33	Marteze Waller (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	52	**Nikko Motta (Sr.)**		Claudell Louis (Jr.)
NG	92	**Tyeler Davison (Jr.)**		Ioane Sagapolu (Jr.)
DE	98	**Andy Jennings (Sr.)**	96	Todd Hunt (So.)
OLB	27	**Donavon Lewis (Jr.)**	90	Nat Harrison (Sr.)
WLB	10	Kyrie Wilson (So.)	30	**Patrick Su'ua (Sr.)**
MLB	43	Karl Mickelsen (Jr.)	32	**Jeremiah Toma (Sr.)**
OLB	41	Brandon Hughes (Fr.)	44	Jamaal Rose (So.)
CB	6	**L.J. Jones (Sr.)**	2	Davon Dunn (Jr.)
CB	18	**Sean Alston (Jr.)**	4	Shannon Edwards (So.)
SS	28	Charles Washington (So.)	26	Rodney Mathews (Jr.)
FS	13	**Derron Smith (Jr.)**	3	Dalen Jones (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Colin McGuire (Fr.)	KR	1	Isaiah Burse (Sr.)
P	99	Garrett Swanson (So.)	PR	1	Isaiah Burse (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Derek Carr, 511-344-4,104-7 INTs, 37 TDs
Rushing: Marteze Waller, 41 att., 174 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Davante Adams, 102 rec., 1,312 yds., 14 TDs
Tackles: Derron Smith, 79
Sacks: Andy Jennings, 5.5
Interceptions: Derron Smith, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **119**

MWC WEST PREDICTION **6**

Hawaii

WARRIORS

ART LAUREL

OFFENSE For the second consecutive season, Hawaii will look to an inexperienced transfer quarterback from a BCS conference school to lead its offense. This time it's former Ohio State backup Taylor Graham, a junior who has the size (6'5", 235) and pedigree (father Kent was an NFL quarterback for 11 seasons), but he has not taken a snap in three years of college. If Graham is to be more successful than Sean Schroeder, who came from Duke to start 11 games last season, the Warriors will have to provide much better protection and a more substantial running threat.

The offensive line returns just two seniors, left guard Mike Milovale and utilityman Chauncy Winchester-Makainai. Finding a left tackle to replace Blake Muir, who transferred, will be key. Junior Sean Shigematsu, who started five games at right tackle in 2012, emerged from spring atop the depth chart. Center Ben Clarke, an all-conference honorable mention pick as a freshman, is the top offensive lineman.

Hawaii's ground game ranked 111th in the nation last season with a meager 108.6 yards per game. Junior Joey Iosefa, who rushed for 463 yards and a touchdown, is the leading returning rusher. Redshirt freshman Steven Lakalaka is the top backup, though incoming freshmen Diocemy St. Juste and Aofaga Wiley will get a look.

40

Hawaii allowed 40 sacks in 2012. Only six teams in the nation allowed more.

Hawaii's receivers need to create better separation at the line of scrimmage and add yards after the catch. Billy Ray Stutzmann is the top returnee with 35 catches in 2012.

DEFENSE Linebacker Art Laurel, who topped the MWC in tackles for a loss (13.5), returns from offseason surgery to lead a defense that had its moments until injuries and a lack of depth took their toll.

Hardest hit was the interior line, where four players, including starters Moses Samia, Siasau Matagiese and Calen Friel, all went down either before or during the season. All are expected back at full strength in the fall. The returning defensive ends, Beau Yap and Tavita Woodard, an honorable mention all-conference pick, were stellar and will be bolstered by the addition of UCLA transfer Iuta Tepa.

Mike Edwards, who declared for the NFL Draft, leaves a huge void at cornerback. There is a three-way battle to replace him. Ne'Quan Phillips, who contributed as a true freshman, holds down the other corner. The safeties are solid. Marrell Jackson tied for the team lead in tackles as a true freshman.

Jerrol Garcia-Williams and Brenden Daley join Laurel in the linebacking corps.

SPECIALISTS The Warriors' biggest scholarship bargain is Scott Harding, a six-year veteran of the Australian Rules Football League, who plays slot receiver, returns punts, holds on kicks and will replace the departed Alex Dunnachie full-time as the punter. Wideout Chris Gant will get first crack at replacing Edwards, who returned three kickoffs for a touchdown last year. Safety John Hardy-Tuliau has blocked seven kicks in his career.

FINAL ANALYSIS Norm Chow's first season as Hawaii's head coach was a struggle, and the schedule only gets tougher for 2013. Chow used the offseason to shake up his coaching staff on the offensive side with the addition of line coach Chris Naeole, coordinator Aaron Price and quarterbacks coach Jordan Wynn. It's imperative that Hawaii shows significant improvement on offense after scoring 14 points or less in six of its 12 games last season. The Warriors must also start to win the turnover battle; they ranked 110th in the nation last year.

The schedule won't allow for Chow's team to ease into the season. The first five games are against bowl teams. Hawaii will have a tough time finishing out of the basement in the new MWC West division.

THE QUOTE

"Their kids didn't always play real hard. The QB is average at best. Couple of good skill kids. O-line's not bad. Just looked disjointed."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	89	Trevor Davis (Jr.)	24	Duke Bukoski (Fr.)
WR	81	Chris Gant (Sr.)		Ammon Barker (Fr.)
SB	**5**	**Billy Ray Stutzmann (Sr.)**	**29**	**Scott Harding (Jr.)**
LT	68	Sean Shigematsu (Jr.)	78	Leo Koloamatangi (Fr.)
LG	**77**	**Mike Milovale (Sr.)**	62	C. Winchester-Makainai (Sr.)
C	**71**	**Ben Clarke (So.)**	54	Kody Afusia (Jr.)
RG	**76**	**Dave Lefotu (Jr.)**	63	Ben Dew (So.)
RT	72	David Griffin (Jr.)	58	Jordan Loeffler (Jr.)
TE	85	Jordan Pu'u-Robinson (Jr.)	87	Harold Moleni (So.)
QB	8	Taylor Graham (Jr.)	**19**	**Sean Schroeder (Sr.)**
RB	7	Joey Iosefa (Jr.)	4	Steven Lakalaka (Fr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**92**	**Beau Yap (Jr.)**	99	Iuta Tepa (Sr.)
DT	91	Moses Samia (So.)	95	Mike Andradi (Fr.)
DT	**59**	**Siasau Matagiese (Sr.)**	94	Hunter Thomson (Fr.)
DE	11	Tavita Woodard (Sr.)	53	Marcus Malepeai (Jr.)
OLB	**40**	**Jerrol Garcia-Williams (So.)**	36	Benny Fonua (So.)
MLB	**41**	**Art Laurel (Sr.)**	56	Brenden Daley (Sr.)
OLB	47	Kamalani Alo (Sr.)	28	Julian Gener (Jr.)
CB	4	Ne'Quan Phillips (So.)	23	Dee Maggitt (Jr.)
CB	2	Tony Grimes (Sr.)	24	Brian Clay (So.)
S	**10**	**Marrell Jackson (So.)**	37	Charles Clay (Sr.)
S	**33**	**John Hardy-Tuliau (Sr.)**		Tigi Hill (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Tyler Hadden (Jr.)	**KR**	81	Chris Gant (Sr.)
P	29	Scott Harding (Jr.)	**PR**	29	Scott Harding (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sean Schroeder, 344-175-1,878-12, 11 TDs

Rushing: Joey Iosefa, 125 att., 463 yds., 1 TD

Receiving: Billy Ray Stutzmann, 35 rec., 447 yds., 0 TDs

Tackles: Marrell Jackson, 56

Sacks: Tavita Woodward, 5.5

Interceptions: John Hardy-Tuliau, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

Head Coach: Norm Chow
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Aaron Price
Defensive Coordinator: Thom Kaumeyer
Honolulu, HI
Aloha Stadium (50,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 1-11, 0-8 (MWC)

August	
29	USC
September	
7	at Oregon State
21	at Nevada
28	Fresno State
October	
5	San Jose State
12	at UNLV
26	Colorado State
November	
2	at Utah State
9	at Navy
16	San Diego State
23	at Wyoming
30	Army

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Sept.	1	at USC	L	10-49
Sept.	15	Lamar	W	54-2
Sept.	22	Nevada	L	24-69
Sept.	28	at BYU	L	0-47
Oct.	6	at San Diego State	L	14-52
Oct.	13	New Mexico	L	23-35
Oct.	27	at Colorado State	L	27-42
Nov.	3	at Fresno State	L	10-45
Nov.	10	Boise State	L	14-49
Nov.	16	at Air Force	L	7-21
Nov.	24	UNLV	W	48-10
Dec.	1	South Alabama	W	23-7

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kennedy Tulimasealii, DL, Waianae, HI
2. Tigi Hill, DB, La'ie, HI*
3. Diocemy St. Juste, RB, Santaluces, FL
4. Trayvon Henderson, DB, Sacramento, CA
5. Aaron Zwahlen, QB, Modesto, CA
6. David Griffin, OL, Tallahassee, FL*
7. Ammon Barker, WR, Salt Lake City, UT
8. John Wa'a, OL, Kahuku, HI
9. Aofaga Wiley, RB, La'ie, HI
10. Barry Higdon, DB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	21.2 ppg	9	100
Rushing	108.6 ypg	10	111
Passing	188.8 ypg	7	98
Total	297.4 ypg	10	118
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	35.7 ppg	10	104
Rushing	190.2 ypg	5	86
Passing	182.8 ypg	3	11
Total	372.9 ypg	4	41
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
-14	-1.17	10	110

Nevada

WOLF PACK

NATIONAL FORECAST **76**
MWC WEST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Brian Polian
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Nick Rolovich
Defensive Coordinator: Scottie Hazelton
Reno, NV
Mackay Stadium (30,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (MWC)

August	
31	at UCLA
September	
7	UC Davis
14	at Florida State
21	Hawaii
28	Air Force
October	
4	at San Diego State
19	at Boise State
26	UNLV
November	
2	at Fresno State
9	at Colorado State
16	San Jose State
30	BYU

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Sept.	1	at California	W	31–24
Sept.	8	South Florida	L	31–32
Sept.	15	Northwestern State	W	45–34
Sept.	22	at Hawaii	W	69–24
Sept.	29	at Texas State	W	34–21
Oct.	6	Wyoming (ot)	W	35–28
Oct.	13	at UNLV	W	42–37
Oct.	20	San Diego State	(ot) L	38–39
Oct.	26	at Air Force	L	31–48
Nov.	10	Fresno State	L	36–52
Nov.	17	at New Mexico	W	31–24
Dec.	1	Boise State	L	21–27
Dec.	15	vs. Arizona #	L	48–49

#New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Teré Calloway, DB, Seattle, WA
2. Don Jackson, RB, Sacramento, CA*
3. Ian Seau, LB, Oceanside, CA*
4. Matthew Lyons, LB, Los Angeles, CA*
5. Elijah Mitchell, DB, Corona, CA
6. D'Andre Fuller, ATH, Arlington, TX
7. Beau Hershberger, DL, Granite Bay, CA*
8. Braxton Isaac, T, Los Osos, CA*
9. Julian Brooks, DB, North Hills, CA*
10. Dupree Roberts-Jordan, DT, Long Beach, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	37.9 ppg	2	18
Rushing	271.0 ypg	3	7
Passing	243.9 ypg	3	52
Total	514.9 ypg	1	8
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	33.8 ppg	9	99
Rushing	211.9 ypg	9	110
Passing	230.6 ypg	6	59
Total	442.5 ypg	7	95
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
-4	-0.31	6	80

OFFENSE New Nevada coach Brian Polian says that he was interested in the Wolf Pack job in part because legendary coach Chris Ault did not leave a bare cupboard. That is especially true with Ault's Pistol offense. One of Polian's first moves when he assumed the reins of the program in January was bringing back offensive coordinator Nick Rolovich after a hugely productive 2012.

Rolovich and junior quarterback Cody Fajardo should bring a level of continuity to Reno. The dual-threat Fajardo was brilliant in 2012, throwing for 2,786 yards and running for another 1,121. He also threw 20 touchdowns against nine interceptions and ran for 12 more scores en route to being named to the All-Mountain West second team.

Fajardo gets the benefit of returning senior Brandon Wimberly, an all-conference candidate who led Nevada with 70 catches for 845 yards in a comeback junior season. And juniors Richy Turner (60 catches, 752 yards) and Aaron Bradley (45-467) should give Fajardo a plethora of targets.

Nevada's normally dominant run game is its biggest question mark. With Stefphon Jefferson, who ranked second nationally with 1,883 yards last year, headed to the NFL and Anthony Knight leaving the team in the spring, junior college transfer Don Jackson is the early favorite at running back. But redshirt freshmen Chris Solomon and Xavier Stephens and sophomore walk-on Nate McLaurin will need to provide depth.

3

Former Wolf Pack coach Chris Ault had only three losing seasons in his 28 years as the head coach at Nevada.

Tackle Joel Bitonio and center Matt Galas provide experience on the line, but the Wolf Pack need to replace three starting linemen in a wide-open race that won't be decided until late in fall camp.

DEFENSE The defensive front was the big question last year with four untested starters. Nevada returns all four this year to form the strength of the 2013 unit. Sophomore Lenny Jones and junior Brock Hekking are all-conference-caliber ends while the trio of Jack Reynoso, Jordan Hanson and Rykeem Yates will be tough to handle inside.

First-year defensive coordinator Scottie Hazelton must find six new starters in the back seven. Former walk-on Jordan Dobrich, a sophomore, should secure the middle linebacker spot. Junior Jonathan McNeal and sophomores Bryan Lane Jr. and Burton De Koning likely will battle a pair of sophomores who originally signed with BCS teams — Ian Seau (Kansas State) and Matthew Lyons (Washington) — for the other two spots.

Junior Charles Garrett is the only returning starter in the secondary, and he moves from corner to safety. Bryson Keeton, another converted corner, will likely start at the other safety spot. Senior Markus Smith and junior Evan Favors are penciled in at the cornerback spots, but prized prep recruit Teré Calloway could get a look.

SPECIALISTS Prior to taking over at Nevada, Polian made his mark as a special teams coach at Notre Dame, Stanford and Texas A&M. He needs to identify a placekicker, a long snapper and another kickoff returner to complement junior Kendall Brock. The Pack are in good shape in the punting department with Chase Tenpenny (43.3-yard average in 2012) back for his senior season. Speedy incoming freshmen Elijah Mitchell and D'Andre Fuller could factor into the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS A new regime makes Nevada tough to predict. The offense should still be formidable, and the Wolf Pack's porous defense could be improved. But with a brutal road schedule that includes trips to UCLA, Florida State, Boise State, Fresno State and San Diego State, even a modest defensive improvement might not be enough for the Wolf Pack to return to a bowl for a ninth consecutive season.

CODY FAJARDO

THE QUOTE

"It surprised me Stefphon Jefferson decided to leave early. I thought he was one of best in the league, but I didn't think he was an NFL guy."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	4	Brandon Wimberly (Sr.)	20	Kendall Brock (Jr.)
WR	81	Aaron Bradley (Jr.)	3	Nigel Westbrooks (Jr.)
WR	**12**	**Richy Turner (Jr.)**	83	Joe Huber (Sr.)
T	**70**	**Joel Bitonio (Sr.)**	64	Abe Abdelkarim (Fr.)
G	62	Zach Brickell (So.)	72	Jeremy Macauley (Fr.)
C	**65**	**Matt Galas (Jr.)**	74	Abel De Haro (So.)
G		Braxton Isaac (Fr.)	72	Jeremy Macauley (Fr.)
T	57	Connor Talbott (So.)	79	Jacob Henry (Fr.)
TE	**86**	**Kolby Arendse (Sr.)**	89	Stephen Jeffers (Sr.)
QB	**17**	**Cody Fajardo (Jr.)**	13	Devin Combs (Jr.)
RB	32	Don Jackson (So.)	30	Chris Solomon (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**94**	**Lenny Jones (So.)**	91	Jake Peppard (Jr.)
DT	55	Rykeem Yates (So.)	**98**	**Jack Reynoso (Sr.)**
DT	**92**	**Jordan Hanson (Jr.)**	95	Fred Lavulo (Sr.)
DE	**53**	**Brock Hekking (Jr.)**	90	Tyler Houk (Jr.)
OLB	28	Bryan Lane (So.)	11	Burton De Koning (So.)
MLB	49	Jordan Dobrich (So.)	10	Reggie Coates (So.)
OLB	50	Jonathan McNeal (Jr.)		Ian Seau (Jr.)
CB	19	Evan Favors (Jr.)		Teré Calloway (Fr.)
CB	9	Markus Smith (Sr.)	31	Randy Uzoma (Fr.)
SS	**24**	**Charles Garrett (Jr.)**	87	Necho Beard (Jr.)
FS	18	Bryson Keeton (So.)	29	Arthur Forrest (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Colin Ditsworth (Jr.)	**KR**	20	Kendall Brock (Jr.)
P	37	Chase Tenpenny (Sr.)	**PR**	12	Richy Turner (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cody Fajardo 367-246-2,786-9, 20 TDs
Rushing: Cody Fajardo, 190 att., 1,121 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Brandon Wimberly, 70 rec., 845 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Brock Hekking, 75
Sacks: Brock Hekking, 8
Interceptions: Charles Garrett, 1; Bryson Keeton, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

John Byrne/Nevada Media Services

NATIONAL FORECAST 64
MWC WEST PREDICTION 3

San Diego State
AZTECS

ADAM MUEMA

OFFENSE Adam Dingwell all but saved San Diego State's 2012 season after Ryan Katz was lost to an ankle injury in mid-October. Dingwell rallied the Aztecs to a dramatic overtime victory over Nevada and then became the first San Diego State quarterback since 1991 to win his first four career starts. Dingwell threw for eight touchdowns and was intercepted seven times.

Former UCLA coach Bob Toledo has been hired to run the Aztecs' offense. One of his primary tasks will be to make Dingwell a more dangerous downfield passer. He only had 12 pass plays that went for 20-plus yards last season.

Running back Adam Muema rushed for 1,458 yards in 2012 — eighth-most in a single season in school history — and has an impressive 6.1 yards-per-carry average through his first two seasons. He is the only tailback with any experience.

Tight end Gavin Escobar departed for the NFL with a season of eligibility remaining after leading the Aztecs in receptions, yardage and receiving touchdowns. Escobar was the only player to catch more than 25 passes. There is pressure on the receiving corps to step up. Ezell Ruffin has the potential to do so after averaging 18.8 yards on his 17 catches last season.

80

Adam Muema was one of only three players in the nation last season with two rushing plays of 80 yards or more.

Left tackle Bryce Quigley is the leader of the offensive line.

DEFENSE Coach Rocky Long runs the defense, and plenty of standouts are back from a unit that racked up 32 sacks, intercepted 14 passes — returning three for TDs — and set the tone for a nine-win season.

Hard-nosed middle linebacker Jake Fely is beginning his third season as a starter. He had a team-high seven sacks. Outside linebackers Derek Largent (6.5 sacks) and Nick Tenhaeff (13 tackles for a loss) also excel for the top linebacking unit in the Mountain West.

The back end is strong with safeties Nat Berhe (team-best 94 tackles) and Eric Pinkins (three interceptions) back in the team's three-safety alignment. But the cornerbacks are questionable as the Aztecs must replace all-conference pick Leon McFadden, the team's MVP last season. King Holder figures to start at one cornerback spot, and the hope is that talented but often-injured J.J. Whittaker will step up to man the other spot.

The defensive line returns all three starters in ends Jordan Thomas and Cody Galea and tackle Sam Meredith. Former starter Dontrell Onuoha also is around to fortify the depth at end.

SPECIALISTS Colin Lockett averaged 25.9 yards on 30 kickoff returns. He etched his name in San Diego State history forever, jumpstarting a road upset of Boise State by returning the opening kickoff 100 yards for a score. Seamus McMorrow was adequate as the punter. Wes Feer is the favorite to handle the placekicking chores.

FINAL ANALYSIS San Diego State has appeared in three consecutive bowl games for the first time in its history. And with the school finally deciding to remain in the Mountain West and rather than depart for the Big East, the opportunity is there for the program to position itself as the second-best program in the conference behind Boise State. Winning a share of the Mountain West crown last season earned Long a two-year contract extension through the 2017 season, and the belief is that bowl bids will continue to be the norm.

The Aztecs will again have a strong defense this season and one of the top running backs in the West in Muema. If Dingwell can again avoid mistakes, and one or two receivers can emerge as a consistent threat, San Diego State will again battle for the conference crown. Regardless, a fourth straight bowl appearance would seem to be well within reach.

THE QUOTE

"Defensively, Rocky Long does his stuff. They are going to blitz and play man coverage. Throw it all day and they won't change."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	24	**Colin Lockett (Sr.)**	10	Dylan Denso (Sr.)
WR	3	Ezell Ruffin (Jr.)	41	Tim Vizzi (Sr.)
LT	78	**Bryce Quigley (Sr.)**	75	Kwayde Miller (Fr.)
LG	65	**Japheth Gordon (Sr.)**	76	Jonathan Henkel (So.)
C	64	**Zack Dilley (Jr.)**	73	Jordan Smith (So.)
RG	56	Nico Siragusa (Fr.)	67	Garrett Corbett (Jr.)
RT	69	Paul Rodriguez (So.)	70	Arthur Flores (Fr.)
TE	44	Adam Roberts (Jr.)	87	Aaron Boesch (So.)
QB	6	Adam Dingwell (Jr.)	12	Jake Bernards (Sr.)
FB	40	**Chad Young (Sr.)**	38	Chris Hokokian (So.)
RB	4	**Adam Muema (Jr.)**	22	Chase Price (So.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	59	**Jordan Thomas (Sr.)**	99	Jon Sanchez (So.)
NT	98	**Sam Meredith (Jr.)**	96	Kenny Galea'i (So.)
DE	47	**Cody Galea (Jr.)**	97	Dontrell Onuoha (Jr.)
OLB	36	**Nick Tenhaeff (Sr.)**	37	**Vaness Harris (Sr.)**
MLB	42	**Jake Fely (Jr.)**	46	Jacob Driver (Sr.)
OLB	50	**Derek Largent (Jr.)**	48	Josh Gavert (Jr.)
CB	35	King Holder (Jr.)	13	Pierre Romain (So.)
CB	34	J.J. Whittaker (Jr.)	21	Mahbu Keels (Jr.)
S	27	**Eric Pinkins (Sr.)**	6	Gabe Lemon (Sr.)
S	26	**Marcus Andrews (Sr.)**	39	Rene Siluano (Sr.)
Aztec	20	**Nat Berhe (Sr.)**	30	Darius Guillory (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Wes Feer (Sr.)	KR	24	Colin Lockett (Jr.)
P	17	Seamus McMorrow (So.)	PR	41	Tim Vizzi (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Adam Dingwell, 144-83-939-7, 8 TDs
Rushing: Adam Muema, 237 att., 1,458 yds., 16 TDs
Receiving: Colin Lockett, 20 rec., 293 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Nat Berhe, 94
Sacks: Jake Fely, 7
Interceptions: Eric Pinkins, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

San Diego State SID

Head Coach: Rocky Long
Record at School: 17-9 (2 years)
Career Record: 82-78 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob Toledo
Defensive Coordinator: Rocky Long
San Diego, CA
Qualcomm Stadium (70,561)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (MWC)

August		
31	Eastern Illinois	
September		
7	at Ohio State	
21	Oregon State	
28	at New Mexico State	
October		
4	Nevada	
10	at Air Force	
26	Fresno State	
November		
2	New Mexico	
9	at San Jose State	
16	at Hawaii	
23	Boise State	
30	at UNLV	

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 7-1)

Sept.	1	at Washington		L	12-21
Sept.	8	Army		W	42-7
Sept.	15	North Dakota		W	49-41
Sept.	22	San Jose State		L	34-38
Sept.	29	at Fresno State		L	40-52
Oct.	6	Hawaii		W	52-14
Oct.	13	Colorado State		W	38-14
Oct.	20	at Nevada	(ot)	W	39-38
Oct.	27	UNLV		W	24-13
Nov.	3	at Boise State		W	21-19
Nov.	10	Air Force		W	28-9
Nov.	24	at Wyoming		W	42-28
Dec.	20	vs. BYU #		L	6-23

#Poinsettia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Julius Wilson, WR, Culver City, CA
2. Darryl Richardson, TE, Seffner, FL
3. Fred Melifonwu, LB, San Diego, CA
4. Donnel Pumphrey, RB, Las Vegas, NV
5. Kalan Montgomery, DB, Compton, CA
6. Marcus Stamps, RB, Los Angeles, CA
7. David Wells, TE, Clovis, CA
8. Tyler Morris, LB, Henderson, NV
9. Lenicio Noble, OL, Phoenix, AZ*
10. Randy Ricks, LB, Las Vegas, NV

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	32.9 ppg	3	36
Rushing	220.7 ypg	4	20
Passing	175.9 ypg	8	103
Total	396.6 ypg	4	61
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	24.4 ppg	3	42
Rushing	133.5 ypg	1	28
Passing	235.5 ypg	7	65
Total	369.0 ypg	3	39
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
+1	+0.08	5	55

San Jose State SPARTANS

NATIONAL FORECAST 63
MWC WEST PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Ron Caragher
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 44-22 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jimmie Dougherty
Defensive Coordinator: Kenwick Thompson
San Jose, CA
Spartan Stadium (30,456)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (MWC)

August	
29	Sacramento State
September	
7	at Stanford
21	at Minnesota
27	Utah State
October	
5	at Hawaii
12	at Colorado State
26	Wyoming
November	
2	at UNLV
9	San Diego State
16	at Nevada
23	Navy
29	Fresno State

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 5-1)

Aug.	31	at Stanford	L	17–20
Sept.	8	UC Davis	W	45–13
Sept.	15	Colorado State	W	40–20
Sept.	22	at San Diego State	W	38–34
Sept.	29	at Navy	W	12–0
Oct.	13	Utah State	L	27–49
Oct.	20	at UTSA	W	52–24
Oct.	27	Texas State	W	31–20
Nov.	3	at Idaho	W	42–13
Nov.	10	at New Mexico State	W	47–7
Nov.	17	BYU	W	20–14
Nov.	24	Louisiana Tech	W	52–43
Dec.	27	vs. Bowling Green #	W	29–20

#Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tyler Winston, WR, Antelope, CA
2. Brandon Monroe, ATH, Loomis, CA
3. Ryan Ena, TE, Oceanside, CA*
4. Garrett Guanella, DE, Santa Rosa, CA*
5. Jourdan Soares, WR, Gilroy, CA
6. Jeremiah Kolone, OL, Fallbrook, CA
7. Keoni Taylor, OL, Bakersfield, CA
8. Travis Miller, DT, Simi Valley, CA
9. Thomas Tucker, ATH, Long Beach, CA
10. Nate Velichko, OL, Foster City, CA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	34.8 ppg	3	29
Rushing	113.5 ypg	3	106
Passing	332.7 ypg	2	6
Total	446.2 ypg	3	30
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
Scoring	21.3 ppg	2	24
Rushing	122.2 ypg	2	18
Passing	222.5 ypg	2	46
Total	344.7 ypg	2	24
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
+8	+0.62	2	27

OFFENSE First-year coach Ron Caragher doesn't have to sweat out the quarterback position. For the first time since 2007, the Spartans return their starting signal-caller, and he's a good one. Senior David Fales was the most accurate quarterback in the FBS last season, completing 72.5 percent of his passes for 4,193 yards and 33 touchdowns. He set seven school single-season passing marks.

Even better for Caragher, a former backup quarterback to a fellow named Troy Aikman during his UCLA playing days, is the fact that a veteran wide receiver group that has totaled over 500 career receptions also returns, led by first-team All-WAC pick Noel Grigsby and second-team All-WAC selection Chandler Jones. Both have had at least 50 receptions in each of their first three seasons. Grigsby has 171 catches over the last two years.

The Spartans lose 1,000-yard rusher De'Leon Eskridge, but Caragher is high on junior Tyler Ervin, a second-team All-WAC pick as a return man, and fifth-year senior Jason Simpson after strong showings in spring practice. Ervin averaged 4.6 yards per carry in limited duty last year.

The offense loses a pair of all-conference picks in tackle David Quessenberry and tight end Ryan Otten. However, four line starters return, led by first-team All-WAC guard Nicholas Kaspar.

227

Noel Grigsby has 227 career receptions, a school record. He also holds the San Jose State record for career receiving yardage (3,015).

DEFENSE The Spartans, who will be switching to the 3-4 from a 4-3, return five starters from a unit that ranked second in the WAC in both scoring and total defense.

The line suffered two big losses in ends Travis Johnson, the WAC Defensive Player of the Year who set a conference career mark for sacks, and David Tuitupou, a second-team All-WAC pick. But most of the rest of the two-deep returns, including tackles, Travis Raciti and Anthony Larceval (although Larceval is battling an undisclosed ailment and has not been cleared to play).

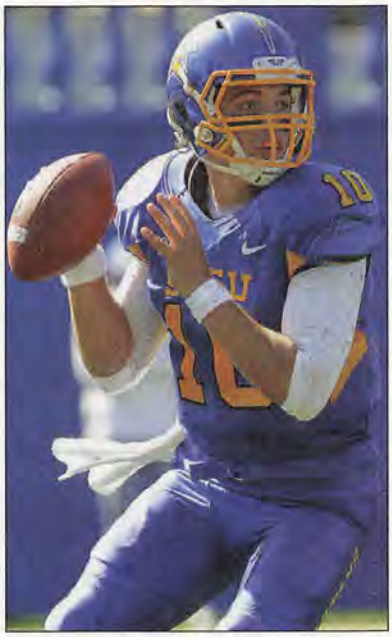
The strength of the defense figures to be at linebacker, where two first-team All-WAC picks, inside linebacker Keith Smith and outside linebacker Vince Buhagiar, return after finishing 1-2 on the team in tackles. Smith has 317 career tackles, including 25 for a loss.

The secondary loses three starters but returns first-team All-WAC corner Bene Benwikere, who tied with Notre Dame's Manti Te'o and Oregon State's Jordan Poyer for third nationally with seven interceptions, including one that he returned for a TD in a win over Idaho.

SPECIALISTS The Spartans will be able to match up with the best in the Mountain West in this area. Kicker Austin Lopez was a Freshman All-American who was a perfect 17-of-17 on field goals en route to a team-high 105 points, while senior punter Harrison Waid, the school's career punting leader, has handled all three kicking jobs in the past. Ervin, just a junior, has already returned three kickoffs for touchdowns. He's a big reason the Spartans ranked 10th nationally in kickoff returns with a 25.2-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Caragher has some big shoes to fill, taking over a Spartans squad that went 11–2 under Mike MacIntyre, who then bolted for Colorado. The 11 wins were the most by a San Jose State football team since 1940.

Still, with a top-notch quarterback in Fales, an outstanding group of wide receivers and key returnees at several other spots, the Spartans figure to be very competitive in their first year in the Mountain West. The schedule, which features non-conference games against Pac-12 heavyweight Stanford, Navy and a road date at improving Minnesota of the Big Ten, is a tough one. One break for the Spartans is that they skip Boise State in conference play.



DAVID FALES

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback, David Fales, is really good. Big arm. Was accurate. Was just a good overall football player."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**23**	**Noel Grigsby (Sr.)**	**1**	**Jabari Carr (Jr.)**
WR	89	Chandler Jones (Sr.)	19	Kyle Nunn (Sr.)
LT	72	Wes Schweitzer (So.)	77	Evan Sarver (Fr.)
LG	**74**	**Ryan Jones (Sr.)**	62	Jeremiah Kolone (Fr.)
C	**54**	**Reuben Hasani (Sr.)**	51	David Peterson (Jr.)
RG	**75**	**Nicholas Kaspar (Sr.)**	50	Nick Diaz (So.)
RT	**79**	**Jon Meyer (Sr.)**	61	Amar Pal (Sr.)
TE	88	Travis Lorius (Sr.)		Ryan Ena (So.)
QB	**10**	**David Fales (Sr.)**	14	Blake Jurich (Jr.)
RB	41	Chris Dadson	44	Tony Zizzo (Sr.)
RB	7	Tyler Ervin (Jr.)	32	Jason Simpson (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DT	**3**	**Travis Raciti (Jr.)**	48	Niko Kittrell (Fr.)
NT	93	Foloi Vae (Jr.)	57	Nate Falo (So.)
DT	98	Tony Popovich (So.)	96	Marcus Howard (Jr.)
OLB	**36**	**Vince Buhagiar (Sr.)**	**34**	**Derek Muaava (Jr.)**
ILB	4	Christian Tago (Fr.)	48	Moses Saucedo (Fr.)
ILB	**31**	**Keith Smith (Sr.)**	11	Josh Fasavalu (So.)
OLB	90	Garrett Guanella (Jr.)	95	Sean Bacon (Jr.)
LC	8	Jimmy Pruitt (So.)	9	Sean Linton (Jr.)
RC	**21**	**Bene Benwikere (Sr.)**	29	Chris Hill (Sr.)
SS	28	Simon Connette (So.)	25	Akeem King (Jr.)
FS	6	Damon Ogburn (Sr.)	26	Travis Talianko (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Austin Lopez (So.)	**KR**	7	Tyler Ervin (Jr.)
P	10	Harrison Waid (Sr.)	**PR**	21	Bene Benwikere (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Fales, 451-327-4,193-9, 33 TDs
Rushing: Tyler Ervin, 45 att., 205 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Noel Grigsby, 82 rec., 1,307 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Keith Smith, 97
Sacks: Travis Raciti, 8.5
Interceptions: Bene Benwikere, 7

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

San Jose State SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **104**

MWC WEST PREDICTION **5**

UNLV REBELS

TIM CORNETT

THE QUOTE

"I don't know if they have the personnel to turn it around there. It's an uphill climb, especially in a league that's getting better."

— An opposing MWC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**18**	**Marcus Sullivan (Jr.)**	6	Anthony Williams (So.)
WR	**81**	**Devante Davis (Jr.)**	21	Taylor Spencer (Jr.)
LT	69	Brett Boyko (Jr.)	73	Andrew Oberg (So.)
LG	**72**	**Ron Scroggins (So.)**	67	Brad Overand (Sr.)
C	**79**	**Robert Waterman (Jr.)**		C.J. Backlund (Jr.)
RG	58	Brian Roth (Jr.)	77	Nick Gstrein (So.)
RT	**78**	**Cameron Jefferson (Jr.)**	74	Alex Novosel (So.)
TE	**46**	**Jake Phillips (So.)**	88	Andrew Price (Fr.)
QB	**3**	**Nick Sherry (So.)**	8	Caleb Herring (Sr.)
FB	16	Taylor Barnhill (Jr.)	89	Tyler Bergsten (So.)
RB	**35**	**Tim Cornett (Sr.)**	2	Adonis Smith (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**93**	**Sonny Sanitoa (So.)**	48	Siuea Vaesau (Jr.)
DT	**36**	**Alex Klorman (Sr.)**	99	Tyler Gaston (Sr.)
DT	**97**	**Mark Garrick (Sr.)**	96	Pingi Moli (Jr.)
DE	85	Jordan Sparkman (Jr.)		Efrem Clark (Jr.)
WLB	55	Tau Lotulelei (Fr.)	51	Prince Oroke (Sr.)
MLB	**41**	**Tani Maka (Sr.)**		Malo Feula (Fr.)
SLB	**43**	**Tim Hasson (Sr.)**	50	Trent Langham (Fr.)
CB	29	Tajh Hasson (Jr.)	24	Fred Wilson (So.)
CB	**4**	**Sidney Hodge (Sr.)**		Damon Collins (Jr.)
SS	42	Peni Vea (So.)	7	Marc Philippi (Fr.)
FS	44	Kenny Keys (So.)	22	David Greene (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Nolan Kohorst (Sr.)	**KR** 18	Marcus Sullivan (Jr.)
P		Logan Yunker (So.)	**PR** 13	Eric Tuiloma-Va'a (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Sherry, 426-226-2,544-17, 16 TDs

Rushing: Tim Cornett, 242 att., 1,232 yds., 7 TDs

Receiving: Devante Davis, 61 rec., 854 yds., 4 TDs

Tackles: Tim Hasson, 76

Sacks: Sonny Sanitoa, 5

Interceptions: Kenny Keys, 2; Fred Wilson, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE This unit will once again have a new look after head coach Bobby Hauck switched offensive coordinators for the third straight year. The new play-caller is former Washington State quarterback Timm Rosenbach, who was the offensive coordinator at Montana in 2012. His first task will be to cut down the mistakes of quarterback Nick Sherry. The strong-armed sophomore returns following an up-and-down freshman campaign that saw him throw more interceptions (17) than touchdowns (16). But Sherry also showed the potential to be an all-conference performer.

Senior tailback Tim Cornett returns to spearhead what should be a strong running game. Cornett rushed for 1,232 yards, the fifth-best single-season total at UNLV, and had eight 100-yard rushing games. He will be joined in the backfield by Northwestern transfer Adonis Smith, one of the stars of spring practice.

The offensive line, which was plagued by injuries for much of 2012, has the potential to be one of the conference's best. Junior tackles Brett Boyko and Cameron Jefferson and center Robert Waterman are on the NFL radar.

Junior Devante Davis, who caught 61 passes and finished second in the Mountain West in receiving yards (854), and explosive junior Marcus Sullivan, one of the league's top return men, anchor a solid group of wide receivers.

22

The Rebels have suffered 22 straight road losses. UNLV's last road victory came on Oct. 24, 2009, over a New Mexico team that finished the season 1–11.

DEFENSE A Rebel defense that allowed an average of 32.6 points and 445.2 yards per game will also have a new coordinator. And it's a coach with a pedigree that Hauck is very familiar with.

Tim Hauck, Bobby's younger brother, joins the Rebels after spending three seasons in the NFL as a defensive backs coach with the Cleveland Browns and Tennessee Titans. He also played safety in the NFL for 13 seasons and once was a member of Bobby Hauck's Montana coaching staff.

The strength of the unit figures to be a veteran line led by senior tackles Alex Klorman and Mark Garrick, along with sophomore end Sonny Sanitoa.

Defensive MVP John Lotulelei, who had 120 tackles at middle linebacker, must be replaced, but seniors Tani Maka and Tim Hasson both return to anchor the linebacker corps. Tau Lotulelei, the younger brother of John, starred during spring practice as a redshirt freshman and is penciled in to start at weak-side linebacker.

The big key will be improvement in a secondary that was prone to surrendering big plays. Senior Sidney Hodge, a fourth-year starter at cornerback, anchors the group.

SPECIALISTS Senior Nolan Kohorst became the first Rebel placekicker since 1994 to earn first team all-conference honors. He led the team in scoring while converting 12-of-14 field goals and 32-of-33 PATs. Sophomore Logan Yunker takes over for steady Chase Lansford at punter. Sullivan, who averaged 23.5 yards per return, Cornett and Eric Tuiloma-Va'a will handle the return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS Many eyebrows were raised when UNLV athletic director Jim Livengood brought back Hauck for a fourth season following back-to-back-to-back two-win seasons that included home losses to FCS teams Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. Hauck has tried to rebuild using mainly high school recruits and finally has some experience with 14 returning starters and solid depth on both sides of the ball. He likely needs to get to six wins and a bowl game to be invited back for another year.

The schedule, which features two well-positioned byes, is favorable for a momentum-building quick start with four of the first six games at home and another at rebuilding New Mexico.

Head Coach: Bobby Hauck
Record at School: 6-32 (3 years)
Career Record: 86-49 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Timm Rosenbach
Defensive Coordinator: Tim Hauck
Las Vegas, NV
Sam Boyd Stadium (36,800)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 1-7 (MWC)

August	
29	at Minnesota
September	
7	Arizona
14	Central Michigan
21	Western Illinois
28	at New Mexico
October	
12	Hawaii
19	at Fresno State
26	at Nevada
November	
2	San Jose State
9	Utah State
21	at Air Force
30	San Diego State

2012 RESULTS (2-11, 2-7)

Aug.	30	Minnesota	(ot)	L	27–30
Sept.	8	Northern Arizona		L	14–17
Sept.	14	Washington State		L	27–35
Sept.	22	Air Force		W	38–35
Sept.	29	at Utah State		L	13–35
Oct.	6	at Louisiana Tech		L	31–58
Oct.	13	Nevada		L	37–42
Oct.	20	at Boise State		L	7–32
Oct.	27	at San Diego State		L	13–24
Nov.	3	New Mexico		W	35–7
Nov.	10	at Colorado State		L	11–33
Nov.	17	Wyoming		L	23–28
Nov.	24	at Hawaii		L	10–48

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Malo Feula, LB, Pago Pago, American Samoa
2. Keith Whitely, RB, Houston, TX
3. D.J. Moffitt, LB, Livermore, CA
4. Efrem Clark, DL, Houston, TX*
5. Damon Collins, CB, Antioch, CA*
6. Jacobie Russell, TE, Houston, TX
7. Nicolai Bornand, LB, Santa Barbara, CA
8. Sieua Vaesau, DE, Pinole, CA
9. Pingi Moli, DT, West Valley, UT
10. Torry McTyer, ATH, Los Angeles, CA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MWC	National
Scoring	22.0 ppg	8	95
Rushing	149.1 ypg	7	76
Passing	218.9 ypg	5	74
Total	367.9 ypg	8	88
Defense	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
Scoring	32.6 ppg	7	95
Rushing	207.1 ypg	8	106
Passing	238.2 ypg	9	68
Total	445.2 ypg	9	98
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MWC**	**National**
-6	-0.46	8	94

AP Photo/Las Vegas Review-Journal/David Cleveland

PAC-12 PREVIEW

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

NORTH

1. OREGON **DUCKS** 12-1, 8-1 PAC-12
2. STANFORD **CARDINAL** 10-2, 7-2 PAC-12
3. OREGON STATE **BEAVERS** 8-4, 5-4 PAC-12
4. WASHINGTON **HUSKIES** 7-5, 4-5 PAC-12
5. CALIFORNIA **GOLDEN BEARS** 4-8, 3-6 PAC-12
6. WASHINGTON STATE **COUGARS** 4-8, 2-7 PAC-12

SOUTH

1. ARIZONA STATE **SUN DEVILS** 8-5, 6-3 PAC-12
2. USC **TROJANS** 9-4, 6-3 PAC-12
3. UCLA **BRUINS** 8-4, 5-4 PAC-12
4. ARIZONA **WILDCATS** 7-5, 4-5 PAC-12
5. UTAH **UTES** 5-7, 3-6 PAC-12
6. COLORADO **BUFFALOES** 3-9, 1-8 PAC-12

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: OREGON OVER ARIZONA STATE

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. UCLA
2. Washington
3. USC
4. Oregon
5. California
6. Arizona
7. Arizona State
8. Oregon State
9. Utah
10. Washington State
11. Stanford
12. Colorado

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	8	2	7	6	11	8	5
ARIZONA STATE	3	5	10	7	1	5	4
CALIFORNIA	11	9	8	11	8	9	10
COLORADO	12	10	9	12	12	12	12
OREGON	1	1	3	2	3	6	1
OREGON STATE	6	7	5	3	7	7	3
STANFORD	5	6	12	1	4	1	2
UCLA	2	8	4	5	5	2	8
USC	7	4	1	4	2	3	6
UTAH	10	11	11	8	9	11	11
WASHINGTON	4	3	2	9	6	4	7
WASHINGTON STATE	9	12	6	10	10	10	9

PRESEASON ALL-PAC-12 TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	MARCUS MARIOTA	6-4	211	So.	Oregon
RB	KA'DEEM CAREY	5-10	196	Jr.	Arizona
RB	BISHOP SANKEY	5-10	200	Jr.	Washington
WR	BRANDIN COOKS	5-10	181	Jr.	Oregon State
WR	MARQISE LEE	6-0	195	Jr.	USC
TE	AUSTIN SEFERIAN-JENKINS	6-6	266	Jr.	Washington
C	HRONISS GRASU	6-3	294	Jr.	Oregon
G	XAVIER SU'A-FILO	6-3	304	Jr.	UCLA
G	DAVID YANKEY	6-5	311	Sr.	Stanford
T	JAKE FISHER	6-6	294	Jr.	Oregon
T	TYLER JOHNSTONE	6-6	292	So.	Oregon
AP	DE'ANTHONY THOMAS	5-9	176	Jr.	Oregon

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	SCOTT CRICHTON	6-3	260	Jr.	Oregon State
DE	MORGAN BRESLIN	6-2	250	Sr.	USC
DT	WILL SUTTON	6-1	288	Sr.	Arizona State
DT	LEONARD WILLIAMS	6-5	270	So.	USC
LB	ANTHONY BARR	6-4	245	Sr.	UCLA
LB	TRENT MURPHY	6-6	261	Sr.	Stanford
LB	SHAYNE SKOV	6-3	244	Sr.	Stanford
CB	IFO EKPRE-OLOMU	5-10	190	Jr.	Oregon
CB	RASHAAD REYNOLDS	5-11	189	Sr.	Oregon State
S	DION BAILEY	6-0	210	Jr.	USC
S	ED REYNOLDS	6-2	205	Jr.	Stanford

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	TREVOR ROMAINE	6-0	200	Jr.	Oregon State
P	DARRAGH O'NEILL	6-2	185	Jr.	Colorado
KR	MARQISE LEE	6-0	195	Jr.	USC
PR	SHAQUELLE EVANS	6-1	211	Sr.	UCLA

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BRETT HUNDLEY	6-3	227	So.	UCLA
RB	MARION GRICE	6-0	204	Sr.	Arizona State
RB	SILAS REDD	5-10	200	Sr.	USC
WR	SHAQUELLE EVANS	6-1	211	Sr.	UCLA
WR	KASEN WILLIAMS	6-2	216	Jr.	Washington
TE	CHRIS COYLE	6-3	222	Sr.	Arizona State
C	ISAAC SEUMALO	6-3	300	So.	Oregon State
G	KEVIN DANSER	6-6	301	Sr.	Stanford
G	MAX TUERK	6-6	285	So.	USC
T	CAMERON FLEMING	6-6	318	Jr.	Stanford
T	MICHAEL PHILIPP	6-4	329	Sr.	Oregon State

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	BEN GARDNER	6-4	275	Sr.	Stanford
DE	TAYLOR HART	6-6	292	Sr.	Oregon
DT	DEANDRE COLEMAN	6-5	320	Sr.	California
DT	GEORGE UKO	6-3	285	Jr.	USC
LB	ERIC KENDRICKS	6-0	228	Jr.	UCLA
LB	HAYES PULLARD	6-1	235	Jr.	USC
LB	SHAQ THOMPSON	6-2	225	So.	Washington
CB	ALEX CARTER	6-0	204	So.	Stanford
CB	TERRANCE MITCHELL	6-0	189	Jr.	Oregon
S	DEONE BUCANNON	6-1	198	Sr.	Washington State
S	ALDEN DARBY	5-11	192	Sr.	Arizona State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	VINCE D'AMATO	6-1	200	Sr.	California
P	KEITH KOSTOL	6-3	197	Jr.	Oregon State
KR	DE'ANTHONY THOMAS	5-9	176	Jr.	Oregon
PR	RICHARD MORRISON	5-11	174	Sr.	Arizona

Craig Mitchelldyer

NATIONAL FORECAST **40**

PAC 12 SOUTH PREDICTION **4**

Arizona WILDCATS

KA'DEEM CAREY

THE QUOTE

"Certainly the defense needs some work. They gave up a whole lot of points last year. They need to toughen up."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	30	Johnny Jackson (So.)	5	Trey Griffey (Fr.)
WR	80	**David Richards (So.)**	16	Garic Wharton (Jr.)
WR	11	Tyler Slavin (Jr.)	81	Clive Georges (Fr.)
LT	68	**Mickey Baucus (Jr.)**	79	Trent Spurgeon (Jr.)
LG	61	Cayman Bundage (So.)	69	Eric Bender-Ramsay (Sr.)
C	74	Jacob Arzouman (So.)	59	Beau Boyster (Fr.)
RG	62	**Chris Putton (Sr.)**	64	Faitele Faafoi (So.)
RT	73	**Fabbians Ebbele (Jr.)**	77	Lene Maiava (So.)
TE	18	Terrence Miller (Sr.)	83	Michael Cooper (Jr.)
QB	7	B.J. Denker (Sr.)	1	Jesse Scroggins (Jr.)
TB	25	**Ka'Deem Carey (Jr.)**	3	Pierre Cormier (Fr.)

DEFENSE (11)

DE	90	**Dan Pettinato (Jr.)**	84	**Reggie Gilbert (Jr.)**
NG	98	Tevin Hood (Sr.)	91	**Sione Tuihalamaka (Sr.)**
DE	75	Kirifi Taula (Jr.)	99	Kyle Kelley (Fr.)
LB	33	**Jake Fischer (Sr.)**	9	C.J. Dozier (So.)
LB	24	Dakota Conwell (So.)	19	Hank Hobson (Jr.)
LB	2	**Marquis Flowers (Sr.)**	53	**Sir Thomas Jackson (So.)**
ROV	21	**Tra'Mayne Bondurant (Jr.)**	12	Wayne Capers (So.)
SPUR	38	**Jared Tevis (Jr.)**	11	Will Parks (So.)
CB	6	**Jonathan McKnight (Jr.)**	17	Derrick Rainey (Sr.)
CB	5	**Shaquille Richardson (Sr.)**	8	Richard Morrison (Sr.)
FS	26	**Jourdan Grandon (Jr.)**	36	Vincente Miles (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	86	Jake Smith (Jr.)	KR 2	Kylan Butler (Sr.)
P	39	Drew Riggleman (So.)	PR 8	Richard Morrison (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: B.J. Denker, 37-25-259-1, 3 TDs

Rushing: Ka'Deem Carey, 303 att., 1,929 yds., 23 TDs

Receiving: Austin Hill, 81 rec., 1,364 yds., 11 TDs

Tackles: Jake Fischer 119

Sacks: Marquis Flowers, 5.5

Interceptions: Marquis Flowers, 3; Jonathan McKnight, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

OFFENSE Three quarterbacks will spend training camp battling to get the keys to Rich Rodriguez's offense, one that established school records with 526.2 yards and 38.2 points per game in the coach's first year at Arizona. The rest of the offense, following an 8–5 season, is virtually intact. All-America tailback Ka'Deem Carey led the nation in rushing (1,929 yards) and offensive linemen Mickey Baucus, Chris Putton and Fabbians Ebbele are multi-year starters.

Incoming freshman Anu Solomon is viewed as Arizona's quarterback of the future, but he starts significantly behind senior B.J. Denker, who ended spring practice at No. 1. Denker knows Rodriguez's uptempo offense well, but he's not as talented as Solomon or Jesse Scroggins, a junior college transfer who began his career at USC. Arizona has some break-in time in the form of three soft non-conference games with which to identify a lead quarterback. Scroggins has the strongest arm but missed much of the 2012 season and almost all of spring camp with a foot injury.

The most troubling news of Arizona's offseason was the knee injury to junior receiver Austin Hill, who caught 81 passes. He is not expected back any earlier than November. The club's new go-to receiver is sophomore David Richards, who caught 29 passes in 2012. He's not a game-breaker like Hill. Carey caught 36 passes out of the backfield and might be more productive as a junior.

2,354

Junior tailback Ka'Deem Carey has gained 2,354 yards in his first two Arizona seasons. The school record is 3,824 set by Trung Canidate.

DEFENSE To say that Arizona struggled with its uncommon "3-3-5 stack" defense under former West Virginia defensive coordinator Jeff Casteel would be a mighty understatement. The Wildcats allowed a school-record 499.0 yards per game. Good or bad, starters return at every position. One newcomer likely to break into the lineup is sophomore linebacker Dakota Conwell.

"We've got more depth and more size," Casteel says, "but we're going to need another year or two to add to our personnel."

Arizona rotates seven linemen in its front group of three, but none projects as an all-league player. Senior Tevin Hood, a nose tackle, is the leader of the group. Redshirt freshman Kyle Kelley is looked upon as a potential star in a year or two. Senior linebacker Jake Fischer is a three-year starter but is undersized and not known for his speed.

Safety-rover Tra'Mayne Bondurant will start for the third season, as will cornerback Shaquille Richardson. Corner Jonathan McKnight, the club's leading coverage player, continues to fight injuries.

SPECIALISTS Arizona's strong kicking game of 2012 is apt to struggle as it breaks in a new placekicker, likely Syracuse transfer Jake Smith. Walk-on Drew Riggleman won the punting job almost by forfeit in spring drills. The return game will get a significant boost if Notre Dame transfer Davonte Neal, a sophomore, is granted immediate eligibility by the NCAA over the summer.

FINAL ANALYSIS Somehow Arizona won eight games, including a bowl game, with the worst defense in school history by balancing it with the most prolific offense in school history. Those numbers aren't likely to be as extreme this year. With Matt Scott gone, the quarterbacking situation is worrisome, but on defense the Wildcats appear to be improved.

Arizona's most telling advantage is its non-conference schedule; the Wildcats open against Northern Arizona, UNLV and UTSA. That should allow Rodriguez the time to select a starting quarterback for the Pac-12 season, and replace Hill's pass-catching load from among a group of five capable receivers. This is a veteran team looking for a quarterback to lead them. By November, when Arizona plays powers UCLA and Oregon in Tucson, the Wildcats could be good enough to upset either.

Head Coach: Rich Rodriguez
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 128-89-2 (19 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Calvin Magee, Rod Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Jeff Casteel
Tucson, AZ
Arizona Stadium (57,400)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-5 (PAC-12)

August	
30	Northern Arizona
September	
7	at UNLV
14	UTSA
28	at Washington
October	
10	at USC
19	Utah
26	at Colorado
November	
2	at California
9	UCLA
16	Washington State
23	Oregon
30	at Arizona State

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 4-5)

Sept.	1	Toledo	(ot)	W	24-17
Sept.	8	Oklahoma State		W	59-38
Sept.	15	South Carolina State		W	56-0
Sept.	22	at Oregon		L	0-49
Sept.	29	Oregon State		L	35-38
Oct.	6	at Stanford	(ot)	L	48-54
Oct.	20	Washington		W	52-17
Oct.	27	USC		W	39-36
Nov.	3	at UCLA		L	10-66
Nov.	10	Colorado		W	56-31
Nov.	17	at Utah		W	34-24
Nov.	23	Arizona State		L	34-41
Dec.	15	vs. Nevada #		W	49-48

#New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Anu Solomon, QB, Las Vegas, NV
2. Jesse Scroggins, QB, Lakewood, CA*
3. Pierre Cormier, RB, San Diego, CA
4. Derek Babiash, CB, Poway, CA
5. Philip Wright, LB, Santa Rosa, CA
6. Khari McGee, ATH, Fresno, CA
7. T. J. Johnson, WR, Cape Coral, FL
8. Steve Gurrola, OL, Glendale, AZ*
9. Luca Bruno, DT, Oak Park, CA
10. Ryan Dunn, OLB, Danville, CA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	38.2 ppg	3	15
Rushing	227.8 ypg	2	15
Passing	298.4 ypg	3	23
Total	526.2 ypg	2	7
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	35.3 ppg	11	102
Rushing	206.2 ypg	11	105
Passing	292.9 ypg	12	117
Total	499.0 ypg	12	118
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-1	-0.08	8	63

Arizona State

SUN DEVILS

NATIONAL FORECAST 23
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Todd Graham
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 57-34 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Norvell
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Chris Ball, Paul Randolph
Tempe, AZ
Sun Devil Stadium (71,706)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-5, 6-3 (PAC-12)

September	
5	Sacramento State
14	Wisconsin
21	at Stanford
28	USC
October	
5	vs. Notre Dame #
12	Colorado
19	Washington
31	at Washington State
November	
9	at Utah
16	Oregon State
23	at UCLA
30	Arizona

#Arlington, TX

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Aug. 30	Northern Arizona	W	63-6
Sept. 8	Illinois	W	45-14
Sept. 15	at Missouri	L	20-24
Sept. 22	Utah	W	37-7
Sept. 29	at California	W	27-17
Oct. 11	at Colorado	W	51-17
Oct. 18	Oregon	L	21-43
Oct. 27	UCLA	L	43-45
Nov. 3	at Oregon State	L	26-36
Nov. 10	at USC	L	17-38
Nov. 17	Washington State	W	46-7
Nov. 23	at Arizona	W	41-34
Dec. 29	vs. Navy #	W	62-28

#Fight Hunger Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chans Cox, LB, Lakeside, AZ
2. Marcus Hardison, DE, Punta Gorda, FL*
3. Jaelen Strong, WR, Philadelphia, PA*
4. Garrett Marino, DE, Mission Viejo, CA
5. Viliami Latu, LB, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
6. Marcus Ball, S, Westerville, OH
7. James Johnson, S, Upland, CA
8. Joseph Morris, WR, West Palm Beach, FL
9. Damarious Randall, CB, Pensacola, FL*
10. Nick Brown, ATH, Florence, AZ

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	38.4 ppg	2	14
Rushing	205.4 ypg	3	25
Passing	259.2 ypg	6	44
Total	464.5 ypg	4	25
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	24.3 ppg	5	40
Rushing	182.9 ypg	10	81
Passing	167.9 ypg	1	3
Total	350.8 ypg	2	27
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+6	+0.46	5	38

OFFENSE If Arizona State can find some wide receivers who can get open and catch the ball, its offense could be as explosive as any in the Pac-12. Quarterback Taylor Kelly doesn't have the strongest arm in the conference, but he's a superb leader, and he has a knack for being able to make big plays at the biggest moments. His ability to throw on the run and make plays with his feet has reminded some of former ASU great Jake Plummer.

The Sun Devils also return two terrific running backs in senior Marion Grice and sophomore D.J. Foster. Both players have breakaway speed, can run between the tackles and are terrific pass-catchers out of the backfield. As much as coach Todd Graham likes to run the ball, both Grice and Foster could surpass 1,000 yards rushing. Grice is the leading returning rusher with 679 yards and averaged 6.6 yards per carry. "I ask (Grice) every day after practice 'Did you practice today like the Heisman Trophy winner?' and he tells me yes or no," Graham says. "He's had quite a few practices (this spring) where he's said yes, so I feel good about that."

The offensive line should be solid, despite the loss of two starters, and tight end Chris Coyle is an effective weapon both down the field and on third downs. If just one of the five receivers Graham signed can contribute immediately — junior college transfer Jaelen Strong is the most likely candidate — the offense will be extremely difficult to stop.

4.2
ASU answered coach Todd Graham's call for discipline by cutting its penalties from eight per game in 2011 to 4.2 in 2012.

DEFENSE The secondary is the concern here — it's not overly talented or especially deep — but that may not matter given how good the front seven should be.

Tackle Will Sutton (13 sacks, 23.5 tackles for a loss) is arguably the best defensive lineman in the country, and he's surrounded by a deep and particularly athletic front that benefits from the attacking style Graham employs. Linebacker Carl Bradford had 11.5 sacks last year, and it's conceivable that he and Sutton could combine for 30 sacks this year.

Throw in nose tackle Jaxon Hood, a Freshman All-American in 2012, and ends Junior Onyeali and Davon Coleman, and it's no wonder that Graham believes this could be one of the best defenses he's ever had.

ASU must replace two starters in the secondary, but the pass coverage doesn't have to be great given how little time opposing quarterbacks should have to throw the ball.

SPECIALISTS Special teams often get overlooked by fans, but this is huge concern for Graham. The Sun Devils have to replace standout punter Josh Hubner, who averaged 47.1 yards per kick, but more important, they have to find a reliable placekicker. Neither Alex Garoutte nor Jon Mora was the final answer last year, and Graham was so concerned he added Zane Gonzalez as a late signee to his 2013 recruiting class.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Sun Devils have all the ingredients to make a run at the Pac-12 South title and an appearance in the Rose Bowl. Their defense — led by the reigning Pac-12 Pat Tillman Defensive Player of the Year in Sutton — should be dominant. They return their quarterback, top two running backs and three starters on the O-line.

Do they have concerns? Sure. They need to find a couple of quality receivers, and they don't have much depth in the secondary, particularly at cornerback. But there's not a dominant team in the South, and the schedule is favorable: The Sun Devils don't play Oregon, they get USC at home and two of their final three games are at Sun Devil Stadium. A nine-win season and date in the Pac-12 Championship Game are not beyond their reach.

WILL SUTTON

THE QUOTE

"They could really make a push in the league. Todd Graham is a pretty good coach. He just has to stick around there for awhile."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	4	Alonzo Agwuenu (Sr.)		Jaelen Strong (So.)
WR	82	**Kevin Ozier (Sr.)**	3	Richard Smith (So.)
WR	3	Richard Smith (So.)		Jaelen Strong (So.)
LT	62	**Evan Finkenberg (Sr.)**	57	Evan Goodman (So.)
LG	58	Sil Ajawara (Jr.)	56	Devin Goodman (So.)
C	67	**Kody Koebensky (Sr.)**		Nick Kelly (So.)
RG	73	Vi Teofilo (So.)	56	Devin Goodman (So.)
RT	74	**Jamil Douglas (Jr.)**	57	Evan Goodman (So.)
TE	87	**Chris Coyle (Sr.)**	20	Marcus Washington (Jr.)
QB	10	**Taylor Kelly (Jr.)**	18	Michael Eubank (So.)
RB	1	Marion Grice (Sr.)	8	D.J. Foster (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	5	Junior Onyeali (Sr.)	43	**Davon Coleman (Sr.)**
DT	90	**Will Sutton (Sr.)**		Marcus Hardison (Jr.)
NT	92	**Jaxon Hood (So.)**	91	Jake Sheffield (Sr.)
OLB	52	**Carl Bradford (Jr.)**	46	Kipeli Koniseti (Sr.)
WLB	56	Grandville Taylor (Sr.)	6	Chans Cox (Fr.)
SLB	2	**Steffon Martin (Sr.)**	7	Carlos Mendoza (Fr.)
SPUR	21	**Chris Young (Sr.)**	31	Anthony Jones (Sr.)
CB	24	**Osahon Irabor (Sr.)**	13	Rashad Wadood (Jr.)
CB	9	Robert Nelson (Sr.)	17	Lloyd Carrington (Jr.)
FS	23	Ezekiel Bishop (So.)	36	Luke Williams (So.)
S	4	**Alden Darby (Sr.)**	12	Viliami Moeakiola (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Jon Mora (Jr.)	KR	9	Robert Nelson (Sr.)
P		Matt Haack (Fr.)	PR	9	Robert Nelson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Kelly, 359-241-3,039-9, 29 TDs
Rushing: Marion Grice, 103 att., 679 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Chris Coyle, 57 rec., 696 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Chris Young, 82
Sacks: Will Sutton, 13
Interceptions: Alden Darby, 3; Robert Nelson, 3

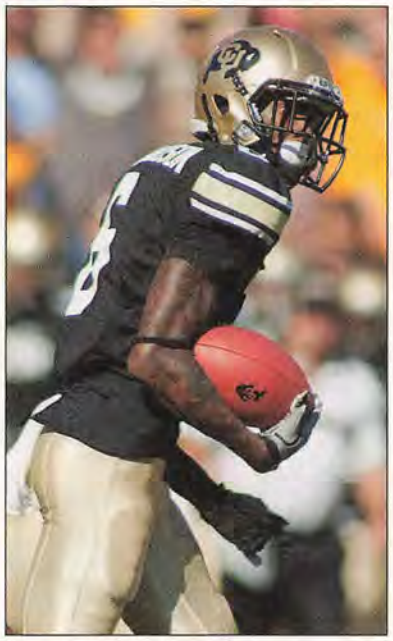
(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

NATIONAL FORECAST 85

PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION 6

COLORADO BUFFALOES



PAUL RICHARDSON

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"Let's not sugarcoat it. Unless the young players they had grow up in a hurry, this could be a project."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**22**	**Nelson Spruce (So.)**	**87**	**Tyler McCulloch (Jr.)**
WR	6	Paul Richardson (Jr.)	21	D.D. Goodson (Jr.)
LT	**75**	**Jack Harris (Sr.)**	76	Jeromy Irwin (So.)
LG	**71**	**Alex Lewis (Jr.)**	54	Kaiwi Crabb (Jr.)
C	55	Gus Handler (Sr.)	64	Brad Cotner (So.)
RG	**52**	**Daniel Munyer (Jr.)**	74	Alex Kelley (Fr.)
RT	**77**	**Stephane Nembot (So.)**	72	Marc Mustoe (So.)
TE	88	Kyle Slavin (Jr.)	99	Scott Fernandez (Sr.)
QB	5	Connor Wood (Jr.)	7	Shane Dillon (Fr.)
FB	33	Jordan Murphy (So.)	48	Clay Jones (So.)
TB	**46**	**Christian Powell (So.)**	26	Tony Jones (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	93	Samson Kafovalu (So.)	91	Kirk Poston (Jr.)
DT	99	Nate Bonsu (Sr.)	57	Justin Solis (So.)
DT	**55**	**Josh Tupou (So.)**	94	Tyler Henington (So.)
DE	**96**	**Chidera Uzo-Diribe (Sr.)**	82	John Stuart (Fr.)
WLB	**1**	**Derrick Webb (Sr.)**	45	Lowell Williams (Jr.)
MLB	44	Addison Gillam (Fr.)	43	Brady Daigh (Jr.)
SLB	37	Woodson Greer (Jr.)	32	Paul Vigo (Sr.)
CB	**2**	**Kenneth Crawley (So.)**		Chidobe Awuzie (Fr.)
CB	**20**	**Greg Henderson (Jr.)**	26	John Walker (Fr.)
SS	17	Marques Mosley (So.)	**13**	**Parker Orms (Sr.)**
FS	**41**	**Terrel Smith (Sr.)**		Tedric Thompson (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	28	Will Oliver (Jr.)	**KR** 17	Marques Mosley (So.)
P	8	Darragh O'Neill (Jr.)	**PR** 2	Kenneth Crawley (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Connor Wood, 42-21-265-4, 1 TD

Rushing: Christian Powell, 158 att., 691 yds., 7 TDs

Receiving: Nelson Spruce, 44 rec., 446 yds., 3 TDs

Tackles: Derrick Webb, 88

Sacks: Chidera Uzo-Diribe, 7

Interceptions: Jered Bell, 1; Marques Mosley, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE The rebuilding project in Boulder continues in 2013 with coach Mike MacIntyre taking over the role of lead architect after predecessors Jon Embree and Dan Hawkins failed to get the job done. Colorado is running a quarterback-friendly offense featuring plenty of Pistol formations that helped San Jose State produce more than 4,300 passing yards and 1,475 rushing yards in 2012 on MacIntyre's watch.

With Jordan Webb, who started nine games in 2012, lost for the season with a torn ACL, Connor Wood emerged as the leading candidate to earn the starting quarterback job in the spring, which led to fellow junior Nick Hirschman deciding to transfer. Wood appeared well ahead of redshirt freshman Shane Dillon in the spring. True freshman Sefo Liufau, who can run and throw, will have a chance to earn the job in August.

Paul Richardson's return from knee surgery that forced him to sit out 2012 is the No. 1 reason fans of the program are excited. Richardson gives the Colorado offense a badly needed gamebreaker who will force defenses to play things more honestly.

46

Colorado allowed 46 points per game in 2012, the worst FBS performance in scoring defense since North Texas allowed 47.6 points in 2008.

There are four running backs likely to earn playing time in the new offense, led by sophomore Christian Powell, a bruiser who started last season at fullback only to become the starting tailback in Week 2. Junior Tony Jones and sophomore Donta Abron are nice complements to Powell's power. Both are shifty and speedy. Senior Josh Ford might be the most well-rounded in the group.

DEFENSE This was a sore spot a year ago with so many young players being forced into action. The Buffs gave up 226.0 rushing yards per game and nearly 500 total yards. It will be under the direction of veteran defensive coordinator Kent Baer, who has a history of improving turnover numbers.

The strength of the defensive line is in the middle where there are several capable tackles in Josh Tupou, Nate Bonsu, Tyler Henington and Justin Solis. Coaches need to find a pass-rusher who can complement Chidera Uzo-Diribe, who led the team in sacks last season. Samson Kafovalu might be that man.

Senior Derrick Webb was the team's leading tackler in 2012, and he should be a big factor again, especially if the linemen in front of him begin to eat up blockers. True freshman Addison Gillam was the surprise of spring on the defensive side of the ball at middle linebacker. Junior Woodson Greer and senior Paul Vigo are solid outside linebackers who could be interchangeable. Cornerback Greg Henderson is the standout in a secondary that picked off only three passes last season and none in the final eight games. Fellow corner Kenneth Crawley says he feels more comfortable this year after being burned by the Pac-12's veteran receivers in 2012. Coaches have to find some answers at safety.

SPECIALISTS All of the starters are back from 2012. Punter Darragh O'Neill is capable of punting with either foot and should be a candidate for the Ray Guy Award. Placekicker Will Oliver didn't get many opportunities in the dismal 2012 season, but he has been accurate and dependable in his first two seasons.

FINAL ANALYSIS After a failed two-year run with Embree, Colorado made one of the offseason's best coaching moves by hiring MacIntyre. He will have his hands full this season, as the Buffaloes were one of the worst major conference teams of the BCS era in 2012. The quarterback position is a question mark, and Colorado needs to replace its best offensive lineman. Last season, the defense allowed 46 points per game (most in the nation), and even with seven starters back, this unit may not be much better in 2013. The Buffaloes will show improvement, but wins could be difficult to come by this year.

Head Coach: Mike MacIntyre
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 16-21 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Lindgren
Defensive Coordinator: Kent Baer
Boulder, CO
Folsom Field (53,613)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 1-8 (PAC-12)

August	
31	vs. Colorado State #
September	
7	Central Arkansas
14	Fresno State
28	at Oregon State
October	
5	Oregon
12	at Arizona State
26	Arizona
November	
2	at UCLA
9	at Washington
16	California
23	USC
30	at Utah

#Denver, CO

2012 RESULTS (1-11, 1-8)

Sept.	1	vs. Colorado State %	L	17-22
Sept.	8	Sacramento State	L	28-30
Sept.	15	at Fresno State	L	14-69
Sept.	22	at Washington State	W	35-34
Sept.	29	UCLA	L	14-42
Oct.	11	Arizona State	L	17-51
Oct.	20	at USC	L	6-50
Oct.	27	at Oregon	L	14-70
Nov.	3	Stanford	L	0-48
Nov.	10	at Arizona	L	31-56
Nov.	17	Washington	L	3-38
Nov.	23	Utah	L	35-42

%Denver, CO

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Sefo Liufau, QB, Tacoma, WA
2. Devin Ross, WR, Altadena, CA
3. Bryce Bobo, WR, Covina, CA
4. Chidobe Awuzie, DB, San Jose, CA
5. Colin Sutton, OL, Foothill Ranch, CA
6. Tedric Thompson, DB, Valencia, CA
7. Sam Kronshage, OL, The Woodlands, TX
8. Gunnar Graham, OL, Belvadore, CA
9. Jimmie Gilbert, DE, College Station, TX
10. Jonathan Huckins, OL, The Woodlands, TX

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	17.8 ppg	12	117
Rushing	110.3 ypg	11	109
Passing	192.5 ypg	11	96
Total	302.8 ypg	12	116
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	46.0 ppg	12	120
Rushing	226.0 ypg	12	115
Passing	262.5 ypg	9	97
Total	488.5 ypg	11	117
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-19	-1.58	12	118

UCLA

NATIONAL FORECAST 27
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION 3

BRUINS

Head Coach: Jim Mora
Record at School: 9-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 9-5 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Noel Mazzone
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Spanos
Los Angeles, CA
Rose Bowl (91,136)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-4 (PAC-12)

August	
31	Nevada
September	
14	at Nebraska
21	New Mexico State
October	
3	at Utah
12	California
19	at Stanford
26	at Oregon
November	
2	Colorado
9	at Arizona
15	Washington
23	Arizona State
30	at USC

2012 RESULTS (9-5, 6-3)

Aug.	30	at Rice	W	49–24
Sept.	8	Nebraska	W	36–30
Sept.	15	Houston	W	37–6
Sept.	22	Oregon State	L	20–27
Sept.	29	at Colorado	W	42–14
Oct.	6	at California	L	17–43
Oct.	13	Utah	W	21–14
Oct.	27	at Arizona State	W	45–43
Nov.	3	Arizona	W	66–10
Nov.	10	at Washington State	W	44–36
Nov.	17	USC	W	38–28
Nov.	24	Stanford	L	17–35
Nov.	30	at Stanford %	L	24–27
Dec.	27	vs. Baylor #	L	26–49

%Pac-12 Championship #Holiday Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Priest Willis, CB, Tempe, AZ
2. Tahaan Goodman, S, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
3. Isaac Savaiinaea, MLB, Honolulu, HI
4. Kylie Fitts, DE, Redlands, CA
5. Myles Jack, MLB, Bellevue, WA
6. Johnny Johnson, CB, Fresno, CA
7. Asiantii Woulard, QB, Winter Park, FL
8. Tyler Foreman, S, Encino, CA
9. Deon Hollins Jr., LB, Missouri City, TX
10. Christian Morris, OL, Memphis, TN

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	34.4 ppg	4	31
Rushing	190.8 ypg	4	37
Passing	275.7 ypg	5	34
Total	466.5 ypg	3	24
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	27.6 ppg	8	58
Rushing	165.4 ypg	7	66
Passing	250.6 ypg	8	85
Total	415.9 ypg	8	76
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+7	+0.50	4	36

OFFENSE Brett Hundley sprinted past the Rice Owls, necks turning 180 degrees just to watch him jet by for 72 yards. It was UCLA's first offensive play of 2012, the redshirt freshman Hundley's first as the Bruins' quarterback, and it was a touchdown. Hundley raced into the hearts of UCLA fans who thirsted for a star quarterback.

Now comes the hard part: Building off a record-breaking freshman campaign of 3,740 passing yards and 29 touchdowns.

Now comes the harder part: Doing so without Johnathan Franklin, who broke the UCLA career and season rushing records in 2012. The Bruins will look to Hundley's high school teammate, redshirt freshman Paul Perkins, junior Jordon James and former Gatorade National Player of the Year Malcolm Jones.

Now comes the hardest part: Keeping Hundley upright. Despite all his successes as a freshman, Hundley was sacked 52 times. A major upgrade in offensive line recruiting over the last two years brought in torrents of talent, but aside from Xavier Su'a-Filo — who returned from an LDS Church mission to dominate as a redshirt sophomore — the Bruins will again be short in the tooth.

If the Bruins find a suitable replacement for Franklin, and Hundley makes use of a solid receiving corps that includes talented seniors Shaquelle Evans and Darius Bell and promising sophomores Devin Lucien, Jordan Payton and Devin Fuller, they'll improve on what was already a fantastic 2012 season.

2.6

Despite winning the Pac-12 South last year, UCLA barely outgained (plus-2.6 yards per game) its opponents in league play.

DEFENSE The UCLA defense was better than it looked in its last performance, a 49–26 thrashing to Baylor in the Holiday Bowl. But not much better. Concerns still linger.

A dominating front seven should help to ease the youth movement. The Bruins return what could be the best linebacker corps in the Pac-12 and one of the best in the country, as the coaching staff did a stellar recruiting job on stud sack-master Anthony Barr. He'll rejoin veterans Eric Kendricks and Jordan Zumwalt, both all-conference candidates, and a group of lauded recruits who will battle in fall camp for the remaining spot in the 3-4 scheme.

UCLA adjusted well to the switch from the 4-3 last year under coordinator Lou Spanos, particularly up front. Though Datone Jones is off to the NFL, Cassius Marsh and Owamagbe Odighizuwa return for their senior years looking to improve their draft stock. They lead a unit that includes veterans Seali'i Epenesa and Brandon Willis and prospects Ellis McCarthy, Kylie Fitts and Kenneth Clark.

UCLA's defensive fortunes will be decided by its baby backfield, and it's a good one. Freshman cornerbacks Priest Willis and Johnny Johnson and safeties Tahaan Goodman and Tyler Foreman all rate among the country's best at their positions, and they'll join Ishmael Adams, Randall Goforth and Marcus Rios in a heated competition.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn improved on a poor start to his freshman year, but he's still a notch or 10 behind Kai Forbath. The Bruins lose the similarly brilliant Jeff Locke, who covered miles of field with his punts. Sean Covington comes in to take over the duties, but he could falter early like Fairbairn. The return game remains a major question mark as Damien Thigpen nurses a torn ACL.

FINAL ANALYSIS The path to a division title is tougher in 2013, especially with a schedule that features road games at USC, Stanford and Oregon. Hundley will be better as a sophomore, but the Bruins need to find a replacement for Franklin. The defense, which returns five starters, has room to improve after giving up 415.9 yards per game last year. The Bruins could be a better team, yet fail to repeat as division champs.

BRETT HUNDLEY

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"They lost a few curious games toward the end, which makes me think, although they are very good, they might not be championship caliber."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	**Shaquelle Evans (Sr.)**	82	Eldridge Massington (Fr.)
WR	9	Jordan Payton (So.)	15	Devin Lucien (So.)
WR	7	Devin Fuller (So.)	10	Kenny Walker (So.)
LT	70	**Simon Goines (So.)**		Poasi Moala (Fr.)
LG	56	**Xavier Su'a-Filo (Jr.)**		Kenny Lacy (Fr.)
C	54	**Jake Brendel (So.)**	57	Carl Hulick (Fr.)
RG		Caleb Benenoch (Fr.)		Alex Redmond (Fr.)
RT	77	**Torian White (So.)**		Christian Morris (Fr.)
TE	3	Darius Bell (Sr.)		Thomas Duarte (Fr.)
QB	17	**Brett Hundley (So.)**	14	T.J. Millweard (Fr.)
RB	24	Paul Perkins (Fr.)	6	Jordon James (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	99	**Cassius Marsh (Sr.)**	40	Keenan Graham (Sr.)
DT	98	**Seali'i Epenesa (Sr.)**	90	Ellis McCarthy (So.)
DE	94	Owamagbe Odighizuwa (Sr.)	92	Brandon Willis (Jr.)
OLB	51	Aaron Wallace (So.)	46	Kenny Orjioke (So.)
ILB	35	**Jordan Zumwalt (Sr.)**	55	Isaiah Bowens (Sr.)
ILB	6	**Eric Kendricks (Jr.)**	42	Aaron Porter (Fr.)
OLB	11	**Anthony Barr (Sr.)**		Myles Jack (Fr.)
CB	23	Anthony Jefferson (Jr.)		Johnny Johnson (Fr.)
CB	24	Ishmael Adams (Fr.)		Priest Willis (Fr.)
SS		Tahaan Goodman (Fr.)	1	Dietrich Riley (Jr.)
FS	3	Randall Goforth (So.)		Tyler Foreman (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Ka'imi Fairbairn (So.)	KR	7	Devin Fuller (So.)
P		Sean Covington (Fr.)	PR	1	Shaquelle Evans (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brett Hundley, 478-318-3,740-11, 29 TDs
Rushing: Brett Hundley, 160 att., 355 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Shaquelle Evans, 60 rec., 877 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Eric Kendricks 149
Sacks: Anthony Barr, 13.5
Interceptions: Stan McKay, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **26**

PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION **2**

USC TROJANS

MARQISE LEE

THE QUOTE

"Everybody thinks it's a huge year for Lane (Kiffin). He needs to win or those people down there — they are already grumbling."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	9	**Marqise Lee (Jr.)**	85	Victor Blackwell (So.)
WR	15	Nelson Agholor (So.)	80	De'Von Flournoy (Sr.)
LT	70	**Aundrey Walker (Jr.)**	76	Nathan Guertler (Jr.)
LG	75	**Max Tuerk (So.)**	66	Marcus Martin (Jr.)
C	66	**Marcus Martin (Jr.)**	69	Cyrus Hobbi (So.)
RG	59	**John Martinez (Sr.)**	68	Jordan Simmons (Fr.)
RT	77	**Kevin Graf (Sr.)**	73	Zach Banner (Fr.)
TE	86	**Xavier Grimble (Jr.)**	82	**Randall Telfer (Jr.)**
QB	13	Max Wittek (So.)	6	Cody Kessler (So.)
FB	31	Soma Vainuku (So.)	38	Jahleel Pinner (So.)
RB	25	Silas Redd (Sr.)	22	Justin Davis (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	91	**Morgan Breslin (Sr.)**	81	Kevin Greene (Sr.)
DT	94	**Leonard Williams (So.)**	58	J.R. Tavai (Jr.)
NT	99	Antwaun Woods (So.)	95	Kenny Bigelow (Fr.)
DT	90	**George Uko (Jr.)**	45	Charles Burks (So.)
DE	42	Devon Kennard (Sr.)	40	Jabari Ruffin (Fr.)
ILB	10	**Hayes Pullard (Jr.)**	51	Will Andrew (Sr.)
ILB	55	**Lamar Dawson (Jr.)**	56	Anthony Sarao (So.)
CB	26	**Josh Shaw (Jr.)**	4	Torin Harris (Sr.)
CB	23	Kevon Seymour (So.)	17	Devian Shelton (Fr.)
SS	18	**Dion Bailey (Jr.)**	21	Su'a Cravens (Fr.)
FS	24	Demetrius Wright (Sr.)	22	Leon McQuay III (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Andre Heidari (Jr.)	KR	9	Marqise Lee (Jr.)
P	35	Kris Albarado (So.)	PR	16	Anthony Brown (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Max Wittek, 69-36-388-5, 3 TDs

Rushing: Silas Redd, 167 att., 905 yds., 9 TDs

Receiving: Marqise Lee, 118 rec., 1,721 yds., 14 TDs

Tackles: Hayes Pullard, 107

Sacks: Morgan Breslin, 13

Interceptions: Dion Bailey, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Jeff Gross/Getty Images

OFFENSE The first order of business, obviously, is to identify a starting quarterback. Coach Lane Kiffin wouldn't do it at the end of spring camp, so that means the new starter won't be named until a couple of weeks into fall practice. The competition is between third-year sophomores Max Wittek and Cody Kessler, with true freshman Max Browne the longshot. The feeling is that Kiffin leans toward Wittek, who is bigger with a stronger arm, although Kessler is the "gamer" who makes fewer mistakes. Neither one is likely to make Trojans fans forget Matt Barkley, who broke all the school's career passing records before moving on to the NFL.

Whoever winds up with the job will have the luxury of throwing to one of the finest pass-catching tandems in the country. The star is All-American Marqise Lee, who won the Biletnikoff Award and should be a Heisman Trophy contender. Lee caught 118 passes for 1,721 yards and 14 touchdowns last year. He will be joined by flashy Nelson Agholor, who had an excellent freshman season and was the team's most consistent offensive player in the spring. At tight end, Xavier Grimble and Randall Telfer are both big and talented enough to be considered solid NFL prospects.

3

USC ended the 2012 season on its first three-game losing streak since 2001, Pete Carroll's first season at the school.

Kiffin's teams always pass well, but it remains to be seen if he can produce the kind of overpowering running game featured by USC teams in the past. Senior Silas Redd, who ran for 905 yards, and freshman Justin Davis, who was the surprise of the spring, will headline a rushing game that will only be as effective as an offensive line that returns plenty of experience. Replacing center Khaled Holmes will be difficult, and it remains to be seen if huge junior Aundrey Walker can handle the all-important left tackle position. It was Walker's missed assignment that led to Barkley's season-ending injury in the UCLA game.

DEFENSE Monte Kiffin, the head coach's father, resigned as defensive coordinator and was replaced by Clancy Pendergast, who has installed a new 5-2 scheme that should take full advantage of a talented defensive line that ranks among the best and deepest in the conference. Morgan Breslin, who had 13 sacks a year ago, will be an end/outside linebacker hybrid now. With Leonard Williams, Devon Kennard, George Uko and fast-rising freshman Kenny Bigelow, among others, this could be a dominant unit.

Potential star Hayes Pullard and Lamar Dawson, the most improved player of the spring, will start at linebacker, while Dion Bailey tries to make the move from linebacker to strong safety. The big question is the rest of a secondary that is short on experience. Junior Josh Shaw will play somewhere, but after that it is difficult to know who will be starting where.

SPECIALISTS Andre Heidari should be among the better placekickers in the country. Kris Albarado will be the new punter, with Lee, Agholor and Anthony Brown featured as kick returners.

FINAL ANALYSIS Kiffin is feeling considerable heat after 2012's disappointing 7–6 finish for a team some ranked No. 1 nationally heading into the season. Now he has the unenviable task of trying to return to prominence with an inexperienced quarterback, a major question mark at left tackle and a defense that could be vulnerable in the secondary.

If nothing else, at least he gets a break in a schedule that doesn't include national power Oregon and opens with four games, three of them at home, that the Trojans should win.

After that, though, things get difficult. The feeling is Kiffin needs nine or 10 victories, or his job could be in serious jeopardy.

Head Coach: Lane Kiffin
Record at School: 25-13 (3 years)
Career Record: 32-19 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lane Kiffin
Defensive Coordinator: Clancy Pendergrast
Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (93,607)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-4, 6-3 (PAC-12)

August	
29	at Hawaii
September	
7	Washington State
14	Boston College
21	Utah State
28	at Arizona State
October	
10	Arizona
19	at Notre Dame
26	Utah
November	
1	at Oregon State
9	at California
16	Stanford
23	at Colorado
30	UCLA

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 5-4)

Sept.	1	Hawaii	W	49–10
Sept.	8	vs. Syracuse %	W	42–29
Sept.	15	at Stanford	L	14–21
Sept.	22	California	W	27–9
Oct.	4	at Utah	W	38–28
Oct.	13	at Washington	W	24–14
Oct.	20	Colorado	W	50–6
Oct.	27	at Arizona	L	36–39
Nov.	3	Oregon	L	51–62
Nov.	10	Arizona State	W	38–17
Nov.	17	at UCLA	L	28–38
Nov.	24	Notre Dame	L	13–22
Dec.	31	vs. Georgia Tech #	L	7–21

%East Rutherford #Sun Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kenny Bigelow, DT, Elkton, MD
2. Su'a Cravens, S, Murrieta, CA
3. Max Browne, QB, Sammamish, WA
4. Justin Davis, RB, Stockton, CA
5. Leon McQuay III, DB, Seffner, FL
6. Ty Isaac, RB, Shorewood, IL
7. Chris Hawkins, CB, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
8. Michael Hutchings, LB, Antioch, CA
9. Nico Falah, OT, Hermosa Beach, CA
10. Steven Mitchell, WR, Pasadena, CA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	PAC-12	National
Scoring	32.1 ppg	6	40
Rushing	150.6 ypg	7	71
Passing	282.3 ypg	4	32
Total	432.9 ypg	5	41
Defense	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
Scoring	24.3 ppg	5	40
Rushing	167.0 ypg	8	69
Passing	227.0 ypg	4	52
Total	394.0 ypg	7	60
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
-2	-0.15	9	69

Utah

UTES

NATIONAL FORECAST **58**
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Kyle Whittingham
Record at School: 71-32 (8 years)
Career Record: 71-32 (8 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Dennis Erickson, Brian Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: Kalani Sitake
Salt Lake City, UT
Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 3-6

August	
29	Utah State
September	
7	Weber State
14	Oregon State
21	at BYU
October	
3	UCLA
12	Stanford
19	at Arizona
26	at USC
November	
9	Arizona State
16	at Oregon
23	at Washington State
30	Colorado

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 3-6)

Aug.	30	Northern Colorado		W	41–0
Sept.	7	at Utah State	(ot)	L	20–27
Sept.	15	BYU		W	24–21
Sept.	22	at Arizona State		L	7–37
Oct.	4	USC		L	28–38
Oct.	13	at UCLA		L	14–21
Oct.	20	at Oregon State		L	7–21
Oct.	27	California		W	49–27
Nov.	3	Washington State		W	49–6
Nov.	10	at Washington		L	15–34
Nov.	17	Arizona		L	24–34
Nov.	23	at Colorado		W	42–35

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tevin Carter, DB, Los Angeles, CA*
2. Sese Ianu, DT, Fountain Valley, CA*
3. Conner Manning, QB, Lake Forest, CA
4. Andre Lewis, WR, Fairfield, CA*
5. Keio Vaenuku, DT, Euless, TX
6. Brandon Cox, QB, Pasadena, CA
7. Andrew Albers, OT, Costa Mesa, CA*
8. Devontae Booker, RB, Sacramento, CA*
9. Micah Thomas, QB, Houston, TX
10. Uaea Masina, LB, Salt Lake City, UT

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	26.7 ppg	8	73
Rushing	133.8 ypg	9	91
Passing	190.7 ypg	12	97
Total	324.4 ypg	11	105
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	25.1 ppg	7	49
Rushing	128.2 ypg	2	22
Passing	235.3 ypg	6	64
Total	363.4 ypg	5	36
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+4	+0.33	7	42

OFFENSE Utah went through three quarterbacks in 2012, losing original starter Jordan Wynn to a career-ending shoulder injury in the second game and then benching his replacement in mid-October. That move enabled Travis Wilson to start seven conference games as a true freshman. He responded with three victories, but Utah finished last in the Pac-12 in passing, averaging 190.7 yards per game. Wilson's efficiency should improve with new co-offensive coordinator Dennis Erickson's emphasis on throwing to the running backs.

The Utes will miss John White, who became the first back in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons. Kelvin York showed positive signs as White's backup in 2012, but he missed most of spring drills with a turf toe injury.

The instability at quarterback did not help, but the receivers also contributed to Utah's lack of production in the passing game. Tight end Jake Murphy emerged as a dependable pass-catcher, but the wide receivers were inconsistent. Based on the spring's results, Dres Anderson and Kenneth Scott should increase their production.

Injuries and ineffectiveness on the line held back Utah's offense in the first half of 2012. Once the five starting linemen became more cohesive, the offense improved. Jeremiah Poutasi was one of the line's mainstays as a freshman, and even more is expected of him in his move from right tackle to left tackle.

5

Dennis Erickson, Utah's co-offensive coordinator, is the Utes' fifth play-caller in the five seasons dating back to the 2009 Sugar Bowl.

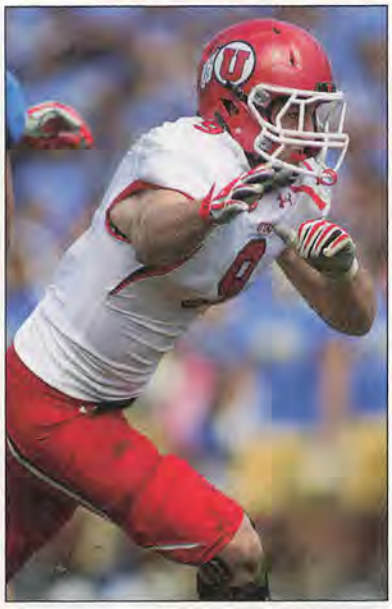
DEFENSE Compared with the offense, Utah's defense has measured up well against Pac-12 competition. The Utes ranked fifth in the conference in total defense in 2012. Maintaining that position will require that Utah adequately replaces tackle Star Lotulelei, possibly the best defensive lineman in school history.

Trevor Reilly led the team in tackles while moving between end and linebacker. Reilly and Brian Blechen give defensive coordinator Kalani Sitake flexibility. The staff is committed to using Blechen, a former safety, as a linebacker to add speed to the defense. He's determined to have a good senior year after being suspended for three games for violating team rules in 2012.

The Utes were unsettled in the secondary, due to Blechen's absence and some injuries. Improvement is expected, with junior college transfer Tevin Carter arriving in August and redshirt freshman Justin Thomas having emerged in the spring. Converted safety Keith McGill could become the kind of big, physical corner the Utes like.

SPECIALISTS New rules designed to limit kickoff returns in college football hardly affected Reggie Dunn. He was credited with four 100-yard touchdown returns in the last five games of the season. In Dunn's absence, the Utes will hope for similar production from Anderson and Charles Henderson, who also handles punt returns. Tom Hackett was effective as a short punting specialist as a freshman; 15 of his 25 kicks were downed inside the 20-yard line. He'll likely do all of the punting now, but the placekicking is another issue. Jamie Sutcliffe and Andy Phillips shared those duties in the spring, and coach Kyle Whittingham plans to bring in other candidates in August.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Utes became known for their major bowl breakthroughs and high national rankings as a Mountain West power, but they have found life in the Pac-12 to be much more demanding. Utah has gone 7–11 in two seasons of conference play. How Erickson's product performs against Pac-12 defenses will determine whether the Utes can get back to a bowl game in 2013. They face a more difficult challenge, with Oregon and Stanford on their schedule for the first time since the Utes joined the league. "We have a lot of work to do, addressing our deficiencies," Whittingham says.



TREVOR REILLY

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"I think they had a down year offensively. I just don't think they found their identity with the scheme they run."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	2	**Kenneth Scott (Jr.)**	8	Anthony Denham (Sr.)
WR	6	**Dres Anderson (Jr.)**	84	Delshawn McClellon (Fr.)
WR	87	Quinton Pedroza (Jr.)	83	Sean Fitzgerald (Sr.)
LT	73	**Jeremiah Poutasi (So.)**	72	Andrew Albers (Jr.)
LG	76	Jeremiah Tofaeono (Sr.)	79	Percy Taumoelau (Sr.)
C	64	**Vyncent Jones (Sr.)**	55	Hiva Lutui (Fr.)
RG	77	Junior Salt (Jr.)	67	Derek Tuimauga (So.)
RT	60	Siaosi Aiono (So.)	69	Carlos Lozano (Jr.)
TE	82	Jake Murphy (Jr.)	80	Westlee Tonga (Sr.)
QB	7	**Travis Wilson (So.)**	12	Adam Schulz (So.)
RB	13	Kelvin York (Sr.)	44	Lucky Radley (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

LE	9	**Trevor Reilly (Sr.)**	53	Jason Whittingham (So.)
DT	91	Tenny Palepoi (Sr.)	97	Stevie Tu'ikolovatu (Fr.)
DT	58	LT Tuipulotu (Sr.)		Sese Ianu (Jr.)
RE	8	**Nate Orchard (Jr.)**	49	Hunter Dimick (Fr.)
SLB	41	Jared Norris (So.)	42	LT Filiaga (So.)
MLB	7	V.J. Fehoko (Jr.)	42	LT Filiaga (So.)
ROV	4	**Brian Blechen (Sr.)**	40	Jacoby Hale (Jr.)
CB	1	Keith McGill (Sr.)	29	Reginald Porter (Fr.)
CB	12	Justin Thomas (Fr.)	11	Davion Orphey (Jr.)
SS	27	Tyron Morris-Edwards (Jr.)	3	Charles Henderson (So.)
FS	18	**Eric Rowe (Jr.)**		Tevin Carter (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	66	Jamie Sutcliffe (Fr.)	KR	6	Dres Anderson (Jr.)
P	61	Tom Hackett (So.)	PR	3	Charles Henderson (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Travis Wilson, 204-128-1,311-6, 7 TDs
Rushing: Kelvin York, 60 att., 273 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Dres Anderson, 36 rec., 365 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Trevor Reilly, 69
Sacks: Trevor Reilly, 4.5
Interceptions: Four players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST 55

PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION 5

California

GOLDEN BEARS

BRENDAN BIGELOW

Peter Brouillet

OFFENSE The top priority for new coach Sonny Dykes is to identify a quarterback to run his version of the spread. None of the candidates — junior Austin Hinder, redshirt freshman Zach Kline and true freshman Jared Goff — has thrown a pass in college. Goff, an early enrollee, played well in the spring. The competition could go right up until the final week of preseason camp.

The Bears lost their top two tailbacks to graduation, but junior Brendan Bigelow is a rising star. He showed breakaway speed in limited work last season, averaging 9.8 yards on his 44 carries. Dykes' offense is known for its gaudy passing stats, but last year Louisiana Tech averaged 227.2 yards rushing per game, and the Bulldogs' top three backs combined for 11 100-yard games.

The receiving corps should be the strength of the attack despite the loss of Keenan Allen. Dykes' offense calls for plenty of four- and five-wide formations. Chris Harper, who caught 41 passes for 544 yards last season, and Bryce Treggs form a promising 1-2 punch. Jackson Bouza and Richard Rodgers will both see time at the Y, a hybrid tight end position.

1/120

Last year at Louisiana Tech, Sonny Dykes had the nation's No. 1 offense (577.9 ypg) and the nation's No. 120 (or worst) defense (526.1 ypg).

The big position battle on the offensive line is at center, where redshirt freshman Matt Cochran and fifth-year senior Mark Brazinski are in competition to replace standout Brian Schwenke. Jordan Rigsbee and Chris Adcock started at guard last season, but Alex Crosthwaite made a big push in the spring.

DEFENSE The defensive line will take on a more prominent role as the Bears shift base defenses from the 3-4 to the 4-3 under new coordinator Andy Buh. Fifth-year senior Deandre Coleman, a 6'5", 320-pound tackle, is the elder statesman of the group, and big things are expected from Mustafa Jalil, a junior who is moving from end to tackle. Chris McCain and Brennan Scarlett — pass-rushing outside linebackers in the old scheme — will spend more time with their hands down as ends in the new defense.

Nick Forbes and Khairi Fortt headline the linebacking corps. Forbes, who will start in the middle, is the Golden Bears' top returning tackler (85). Fortt transferred to Cal from Penn State in August 2012 but had to sit out last season with a knee injury. He had a fantastic spring at outside linebacker and is well-versed in the 4-3 from his days with the Nittany Lions.

The secondary was hit hard, losing two honorable mention All-Pac-12 picks in Josh Hill (safety) and Steve Williams (cornerback) as well as cornerback Marc Anthony, who started 32 games in his career. Stefan McClure, now a third-year sophomore, has all-conference ability but needs to stay healthy.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Vincenzo D'Amato enjoyed a banner junior season. He tied for second in the Pac-12 in made field goals (16) and ranked fifth in accuracy (69.6 percent). After a slow start, D'Amato finished out the year converting 12 of his final 15 kicks. Punter Cole Leininger was solid as a freshman, averaging 40.0 yards per kick. Allen's production as a punt returner will be hard to replace.

FINAL ANALYSIS Dykes needs to find a quarterback, but he is inheriting enough talent at running back and wide receiver to have immediate success on offense. The defense, however, could be an issue, especially with some expected growing pains with a new coordinator and a new system.

The schedule is also extremely difficult — the Bears play USC and UCLA from the South and host Ohio State and Northwestern in nonconference action. There will be progress, but it might not show up in the win column. Reaching bowl-eligibility will be a challenge.

THE QUOTE

"I don't know how they don't have a quarterback at a place like Cal. But I don't know whether they have one."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	1	**Bryce Treggs (So.)**	10	Darius Powe (So.)
WR	6	Chris Harper (So.)	19	Maximo Espitia (So.)
WR	4	Kenny Lawler (Fr.)	3	Maurice Harris (So.)
Y	11	Richard Rodgers (Jr.)	28	Jackson Bouza (Sr.)
LT	78	Freddie Tagaloa (So.)	72	Matt Williams (Sr.)
LG	73	**Jordan Rigsbee (So.)**	64	Steven Moore (Fr.)
C	74	Matt Cochran (Fr.)	68	Mark Brazinski (Sr.)
RG	58	**Chris Adcock (Jr.)**	71	Alejandro Crosthwaite (Jr.)
RT	79	Bill Tyndall (Sr.)	59	Brian Farley (So.)
QB	8	Zach Kline (Fr.)	9	Jared Goff (Fr.)
RB	5	Brendan Bigelow (Jr.)	2	Daniel Lasco (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	17	**Brennan Scarlett (Jr.)**	41	Todd Barr (So.)
NT	91	**Deandre Coleman (Sr.)**	55	Viliami Moala (Jr.)
DT	90	Mustafa Jalil (Jr.)	56	Keni Kaufusi (Sr.)
RUSH	40	**Chris McCain (Jr.)**	13	Kyle Kragen (Jr.)
WLB	11	Khairi Fortt (Jr.)	22	Nathan Broussard (So.)
MLB	1	**Nick Forbes (Jr.)**	47	Hardy Nickerson (Fr.)
SLB	7	**Jalen Jefferson (So.)**	10	Lucas King (Jr.)
CB	21	Stefan McClure (So.)	33	Dan Fadelli (Fr.)
CB	3	Kameron Jackson (Jr.)	20	Isaac Lapite (Jr.)
SS	4	Avery Sebastian (Jr.)	27	Damariay Drew (Fr.)
FS	5	**Michael Lowe (Jr.)**	2	Alex Logan (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Vincenzo D'Amato (Sr.)	KR	1	Bryce Treggs (So.)
P	16	Cole Leininger (So.)	PR	2	Daniel Lasco (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None

Rushing: Brendan Bigelow, 44 att., 431 yds., 3 TDs

Receiving: Chris Harper, 41 rec., 544 yds, 2 TDs

Tackles: Nick Forbes, 85

Sacks: Chris McCain, 3.5

Interceptions: Three players tied with 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Head Coach: Sonny Dykes
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 22-15 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Franklin
Defensive Coordinator: Andy Buh
Berkeley, CA
Memorial Stadium (63,186)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-6 (PAC-12)

August		
31	Northwestern	
September		
7	Portland State	
14	Ohio State	
28	at Oregon	
October		
5	Washington State	
12	at UCLA	
19	Oregon State	
26	at Washington	
November		
2	Arizona	
9	USC	
16	at Colorado	
23	at Stanford	

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-7)

Sept.	1	Nevada	L	24-31
Sept.	8	Southern Utah	W	50-31
Sept.	15	at Ohio State	L	28-35
Sept.	22	at USC	L	9-27
Sept.	29	Arizona State	L	17-27
Oct.	6	UCLA	W	43-17
Oct.	13	at Washington State	W	31-17
Oct.	20	Stanford	L	3-21
Oct.	27	at Utah	L	27-49
Nov.	2	Washington	L	13-21
Nov.	10	Oregon	L	17-59
Nov.	17	at Oregon State	L	14-62

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Takkarist McKinley, DE, Menifee, CA
2. Jared Goff, QB, Kentfield, CA
3. Darius Allensworth, DB, Romoland, CA
4. Khalfani Muhammad, RB, Sherman Oaks, CA
5. Chris Borrayo, OL, Paramount, CA
6. Erik Bunte, OL, Laguna Niguel, CA
7. Trey Cheek, DB, Lawrenceville, GA
8. Aaron Cochran, OL, Atwater, CA
9. Cameron Walker, DB, Los Angeles, CA
10. Raymond Davison, DE, Encino, CA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	PAC-12	National
Scoring	23.0 ppg	10	91
Rushing	183.0 ypg	5	42
Passing	208.3 ypg	9	87
Total	391.3 ypg	7	69
Defense	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
Scoring	33.1 ppg	9	96
Rushing	169.3 ypg	9	70
Passing	271.9 ypg	11	104
Total	441.3 ypg	10	93
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
-7	-0.58	10	96

Oregon DUCKS

NATIONAL FORECAST 3
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Mark Helfrich
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Scott Frost
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Aliotti
Eugene, OR
Autzen Stadium (54,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 12-1, 8-1 (PAC-12)

August		
31	Nicholls State	
September		
7	at Virginia	
14	Tennessee	
28	California	
October		
5	at Colorado	
12	at Washington	
19	Washington State	
26	UCLA	
November		
7	at Stanford	
16	Utah	
23	at Arizona	
29	Oregon State	

2012 RESULTS (12-1, 8-1)

Sept.	1	Arkansas State		W	57–34
Sept.	8	Fresno State		W	42–25
Sept.	15	Tennessee Tech		W	63–14
Sept.	22	Arizona		W	49–0
Sept.	29	vs. Washington State	%	W	51–26
Oct.	6	Washington		W	52–21
Oct.	18	at Arizona State		W	43–21
Oct.	27	Colorado		W	70–14
Nov.	3	at USC		W	62–51
Nov.	10	at California		W	59–17
Nov.	17	Stanford	(ot)	L	14–17
Nov.	24	at Oregon State		W	48–24
Jan.	3	vs. Kansas State	#	W	35–17

%Seattle #Fiesta Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Thomas Tyner, RB, Aloha, OR
2. Tyrell Robinson, ATH, San Diego, CA
3. Devon Allen, WR, Phoenix, AZ
4. Torrodney Prevot, LB, Houston, TX
5. Darren Carrington, WR, San Diego, CA
6. Tyree Robinson, ATH, San Diego, CA
7. Cameron Hunt, OL, Corona, CA
8. Evan Voeller, OL, West Linn, OR
9. John Mundt, TE, Modesto, CA
10. Matt Wogan, K, Indian Trail, NC

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	49.5 ppg	1	2
Rushing	315.2 ypg	1	3
Passing	222.2 ypg	7	72
Total	537.4 ypg	1	5
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	21.6 ppg	3	25
Rushing	144.9 ypg	4	44
Passing	229.2 ypg	5	56
Total	374.2 ypg	6	44
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+21	+1.62	1	1

OFFENSE New head coach Mark Helfrich's transition will be eased by the presence of two potential Heisman Trophy candidates in sophomore quarterback Marcus Mariota and junior running back De'Anthony Thomas.

Mariota, who combines laid-back Hawaiian cool with textbook dual-threat abilities, set school records for completion percentage (68.5) and total touchdowns (38) in his first season as the starter.

Used as a complement to LaMichael James and Kenjon Barner the last two years, Thomas will get a shot as the primary back in 2013, though the Ducks will limit his carries to protect the 176-pound jitterbug. Sophomore Byron Marshall and 5-star recruit Thomas Tyner will also be involved in the running game.

There are enough veteran targets on hand in receivers Josh Huff, Keanon Lowe and Bralon Addison, plus tight end Colt Lyerla, that speculation around Eugene is that the Ducks will throw more often this fall, after being predominantly a running team under Chip Kelly.

The offensive line features a trio of all-conference candidates in center Hroniss Grasu, left tackle Tyler Johnstone and right tackle Jake Fisher, but the guards will be relatively new faces. Senior Mana Greig started two games last fall before a knee injury ended his season, and junior Hamani Stevens is a big body who could provide the physical presence the Ducks need to prove they're not just a finesse offense.

1

Oregon was the only team in the nation last year to average over 300 yards rushing and 200 yards passing.

DEFENSE The Ducks return six of their top seven defensive linemen and their entire two-deep in the defensive backfield, including All-America candidate Ifo Ekpre-Olomu at cornerback.

The question mark is at inside linebacker, where Michael Clay and Kiko Alonso have graduated, and juniors Derrick Malone and Rodney Hardrick sat out spring practices. Junior college transfer Joe Walker and converted outside linebacker Tyson Coleman could be factors there.

Oregon also needs to replace top NFL Draft pick Dion Jordan, but his shoulder injury late in 2012 provided a chance for backup Tony Washington to earn the confidence of his coaches and teammates. On the other side, the Ducks are waiting for senior Boseko Lokombo to blossom into a consistent impact player, after flashes of greatness the last three seasons.

SPECIALISTS The Ducks could have two new kickers, with heralded freshman Matt Wogan set to challenge inconsistent placekicker Alejandro Maldonado, and Dylan Ausherman replacing punter Jackson Rice. Ausherman is a junior college transfer who redshirted last fall. Thomas is a threat in the return game — he scored a touchdown on the opening kickoff of the Fiesta Bowl — but he struggled with his decision-making as a punt returner last fall. Addison is a more sure-handed option on punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Ducks enter their most intriguing season since Kelly took over in 2009, with the Helfrich era kicking off and the Ducks looking to regain their throne after failing to win a fourth consecutive conference championship in 2012. They "settled" for their second straight BCS bowl victory, over Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl, but the departure of Kelly to the NFL a few weeks later made 2013 a potentially historic transition year for the program.

The promotion of Helfrich was intended to maintain momentum, and he managed to keep the bulk of the coaching staff and the recruiting class together. But in six years with the Ducks, Kelly grew to become one of the most respected football minds in the country, and a hiccup or two in his absence wouldn't be surprising, particularly against Stanford, the only team to beat Kelly twice in his four years as head coach.

MARCUS MARIOTA

THE QUOTE

"The thing about the quarterback (Marcus Mariota) is he's always so poised, and he's really fast. Miss your gap or overplay, and he's gone."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	11	Bralon Addison (So.)	**16**	**Daryle Hawkins (Sr.)**	
WR	7	**Keanon Lowe (Jr.)**	23	B.J. Kelley (So.)	
WR	1	**Josh Huff (Sr.)**	20	Chance Allen (Fr.)	
LT	64	**Tyler Johnstone (So.)**	58	James Euscher (So.)	
LG	63	Mana Greig (Sr.)		Cameron Hunt (Fr.)	
C	55	**Hroniss Grasu (Jr.)**	78	Karrington Armstrong (Sr.)	
RG	54	Hamani Stevens (Jr.)	72	Andre Yruretagoyena (So.)	
RT	75	**Jake Fisher (Jr.)**	71	Everett Benyard (Sr.)	
TE	15	**Colt Lyerla (Jr.)**	85	Pharaoh Brown (So.)	
QB	8	**Marcus Mariota (So.)**	17	Jeff Lockie (Fr.)	
RB	6	**De'Anthony Thomas (Jr.)**	9	Byron Marshall (So.)	

DEFENSE (7)

DE	66	**Taylor Hart (Sr.)**	44	DeForest Buckner (So.)
NG	92	**Wade Keliikipi (Sr.)**	56	Alex Balducci (So.)
DT	90	Ricky Heimuli (Sr.)	9	Arik Armstead (So.)
OLB	91	Tony Washington (Jr.)	96	Christian French (So.)
ILB	22	Derrick Malone (Jr.)	34	Rahim Cassell (So.)
ILB	33	Tyson Coleman (So.)	48	Rodney Hardrick (Jr.)
OLB	25	**Boseko Lokombo (Sr.)**		Torrodney Prevot (Fr.)
CB	27	**Terrance Mitchell (Jr.)**	3	Dior Mathis (Jr.)
CB	14	**Ifo Ekpre-Olomu (Jr.)**	13	Troy Hill (Jr.)
SS	12	**Brian Jackson (Sr.)**	4	Erick Dargan (Jr.)
FS	21	**Avery Patterson (Sr.)**	8	Reggie Daniels (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Matt Wogan (Fr.)	**KR**	6	De'Anthony Thomas (Jr.)
P	30	Dylan Ausherman (Jr.)	**PR**	11	Bralon Addison (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Marcus Mariota, 336-230-2,677-6 32 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Mariota, 105 att., 752 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: De'Anthony Thomas, 45 rec., 445 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Brian Jackson, 69
Sacks: Taylor Hart, 8
Interceptions: Erick Dargan, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Steve Dipaola

NATIONAL FORECAST **25**

PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **3**

Oregon State BEAVERS

BRANDIN COOKS

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"Mike Riley does a great job with those guys. He doesn't always get the best players talent-wise, but he gets the best out of them."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	7	**Brandin Cooks (Jr.)**	81	Micah Hatfield (Sr.)
WR	34	Kevin Cummings (Sr.)	86	Obum Gwacham (Jr.)
WR	18	Richard Mullaney (So.)	18	Malik Gilmore (Fr.)
LT	77	**Michael Philipp (Sr.)**	74	David Keller (So.)
LG	69	**Josh Andrews (Sr.)**	65	Roman Sapolu (Jr.)
C	56	**Isaac Seumalo (So.)**	50	Josh Mitchell (So.)
RG	71	**Grant Enger (Sr.)**	70	Grant Bays (Fr.)
RT	62	Gavin Andrews (So.)	78	Sean Harlow (Fr.)
TE	89	**Connor Hamlett (Jr.)**	81	Micah Hatfield (Sr.)
QB	14	Cody Vaz (Sr.)	4	**Sean Mannion (Jr.)**
RB	24	**Storm Woods (So.)**	28	Terron Ward (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	95	**Scott Crichton (Jr.)**	97	John Braun (Sr.)
DT	96	Edwin Delva (Jr.)	93	Mana Rosa (Sr.)
DT	98	Siale Hautau (Jr.)	54	B. Bennett-Jackson (So.)
DE	45	**Dylan Wynn (Jr.)**	94	Devon Kell (Sr.)
LB	40	**Michael Doctor (Sr.)**	44	Jabral Johnson (Jr.)
LB	32	Joel Skotte (So.)	47	Josh Williams (Jr.)
LB	4	**D.J. Alexander (Jr.)**	35	Caleb Saulo (Fr.)
CB	16	**Rashaad Reynolds (Sr.)**	19	Jovan Stevenson (Sr.)
CB	6	Sean Martin (Sr.)	7	Steven Nelson (Jr.)
SS	25	**Ryan Murphy (Jr.)**	17	Cyril Noland-Lewis (Fr.)
FS	8	**Tyrequek Zimmerman (Jr.)**	18	Kendall Hill (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Trevor Romaine (Jr.)	KR	28	Terron Ward (Jr.)
P	48	Keith Kostol (Jr.)	PR	7	Steven Nelson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sean Mannion, 309-200-2,446-13, 15 TDs

Rushing: Storm Woods, 192 att., 940 yds., 13 TDs

Receiving: Brandin Cooks, 67 rec., 1,151 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Michael Doctor, 83

Sacks: Scott Crichton 9

Interceptions: Rashaad Reynolds, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Coach Mike Riley plans to pick a starting quarterback — either Sean Mannion or Cody Vaz — the week before the first game. It's going to be a difficult decision, but Riley believes he can't make a bad choice because both possess the know-how and ability to run the offense and win games.

Mannion took over as the starter two games into his redshirt freshman season in 2011. He showed a ton of upside and was named a Freshman All-American after passing for 3,328 yards and 16 touchdowns. Mannion's sophomore season began even better as the Beavers jumped out to a 4–0 record, but a minor knee injury that required surgery forced him out of two games and began the quarterback competition when Vaz won both of his starts.

The quarterback, whether it's Mannion or Vaz, will have many targets in the receiving corps. Brandin Cooks is the big-play threat. He had 1,151 receiving yards and is elusive after the catch. Kevin Cummings and tight end Connor Hamlett started to emerge as reliable options at the end of last season.

6

By improving from 3–9 to 9–4, Oregon State won six more games last season than in 2011 for the biggest one-year improvement in school history.

Running back Storm Woods should improve in his second season as a starter. He nearly topped 1,000 yards despite a lingering bruised knee. He's healthy now and showed improved speed during spring practice. He will have the luxury of running behind a veteran offensive line that returns four starters.

The Beavers typically move the ball with ease; it's just a matter of scoring.

DEFENSE The Beavers rebuilt the defensive line with junior college transfers. Siale Hautau and Edwin Delva transferred midyear to learn the tackle position in spring practice. They'll take up blockers, which will allow aggressive defensive ends Scott Crichton, who had nine sacks, and Dylan Wynn to get after the quarterback. More junior college defensive linemen arrive in the fall. The Beavers plan to rotate up to eight players on the line.

Both starting outside linebackers return. Michael Doctor and D.J. Alexander are hard-hitting and quick. They made plays in space and covered backs out of the backfield. A middle linebacker needs to emerge, and sophomore Joel Skotte will be given a shot. If he doesn't stick, Josh Williams is an option.

The secondary returns two safeties and a cornerback. Ryan Murphy and Tyrequek Zimmerman are back as safeties. Both like to support the run but also are effective in coverage. Rashaad Reynolds is the cornerback opponents avoid. He intercepted three passes and broke up 13 last season. Sean Martin and junior college transfer Steven Nelson are in competition for the other corner position. Both will play significantly now that the Beavers use nickel and dime packages on a regular basis.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Trevor Romaine addressed the inconsistencies that plagued him as a freshman in 2011. He returned to hit 16-of-18 field goals. Punter Keith Kostol secured his position with an average of 41.9 yards on 59 attempts. Oregon State's return game needs a boost. Jordan Poyer, the punt returner, is gone, and the Beavers' kickoff return unit was the worst in the Pac-12 at 18.3 yards per return.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Beavers started strong and reached the Alamo Bowl last season. One year removed from a 3–9 season, Oregon State finished in the top 25 for the first time since 2008. Riley went young two years ago, and most of those players are now upperclassmen.

Oregon and Stanford are the class the Pac-12, but Oregon State is near the top of the next tier. Contending for a league title will be tough — especially since the Beavers play in the North — but Oregon State has the talent and experience to flirt with the 10-win mark.

Head Coach: Mike Riley
Record at School: 81-67 (12 years)
Career Record: 81-67 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Danny Langsdorf
Defensive Coordinator: Mark Banker
Corvallis, OR
Reser Stadium (45,674)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-4 (PAC-12)

August		
31	Eastern Washington	
September		
7	Hawaii	
14	at Utah	
21	at San Diego State	
28	Colorado	
October		
12	at Washington State	
19	at California	
26	Stanford	
November		
1	USC	
16	at Arizona State	
23	Washington	
29	at Oregon	

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 6-3)

Sept.	8	Wisconsin	W	10–7
Sept.	22	at UCLA	W	27–20
Sept.	29	at Arizona	W	38–35
Oct.	6	Washington State	W	19–6
Oct.	13	at BYU	W	42–24
Oct.	20	Utah	W	21–7
Oct.	27	at Washington	L	17–20
Nov.	3	Arizona State	W	36–26
Nov.	10	at Stanford	L	23–27
Nov.	17	California	W	62–14
Nov.	24	Oregon	L	24–48
Dec.	1	Nicholls State	W	77–3
Dec.	29	vs. Texas #	L	27–31

#Alamo Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dashon Hunt, DB, Westlake Village, CA
2. Brandon Arnold, DB, Encino, CA
3. Steven Nelson, CB, Warner Robins, GA*
4. Edwin Delva, DT, Miami, FL*
5. Hunter Jarmon, WR,Waco, TX
6. Sean Harlow, OT, San Clemente, CA
7. Corey Lawrence, ATH, Del City, OK
8. Siale Hautau, DT, Salt Lake City, UT*
9. Kyle Peko, DT, La Habra, CA*
10. Jordan Villamin, WR, Etiwanda, CA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	32.5 ppg	5	37
Rushing	124.4 ypg	10	100
Passing	307.1 ypg	2	20
Total	431.5 ypg	6	43
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	20.6 ppg	2	22
Rushing	129.5 ypg	3	27
Passing	224.5 ypg	3	49
Total	354.0 ypg	3	30
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+8	+0.62	3	27

Stanford CARDINAL

NATIONAL FORECAST 7
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: David Shaw
Record at School: 23-4 (2 years)
Career Record: 23-4 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bloomgren
Defensive Coordinator: Derek Mason
Stanford, CA
Stanford Stadium (50,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 7-2 (PAC-12)

September	
7	San Jose State
14	at Army
21	Arizona State
28	vs. Washington State #
October	
5	Washington
12	at Utah
19	UCLA
26	at Oregon State
November	
7	Oregon
16	at USC
23	California
30	Notre Dame

#Seattle, WA

2012 RESULTS (12-2, 8-1)

Aug.	31	San Jose State		W	20–17
Sept.	8	Duke		W	50–13
Sept.	15	USC		W	21–14
Sept.	27	at Washington		L	13–17
Oct.	6	Arizona	(ot)	W	54–48
Oct.	13	at Notre Dame	(ot)	L	13–20
Oct.	20	at California		W	21–3
Oct.	27	Washington State		W	24–17
Nov.	3	at Colorado		W	48–0
Nov.	10	Oregon State		W	27–23
Nov.	17	at Oregon	(ot)	W	17–14
Nov.	24	at UCLA		W	35–17
Nov.	30	UCLA %		W	27–24
Jan.	1	vs. Wisconsin #		W	20–14

%Pac-12 Championship #Rose Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ryan Burns, QB, Leesburg, VA
2. Peter Kalambayi, LB, Matthews, NC
3. Greg Taboada, TE, Atlanta, GA
4. Francis Owusu, WR, Oxnard, CA
5. Austin Hooper, TE, San Ramon, CA
6. Sean Barton, LB, North Salt Lake, UT
7. Taijuan Thomas, WR, Monroe, LA
8. Thomas Oser, OT, Los Angeles, CA
9. Kevin Palma, LB, Pixley, CA
10. Eric Cotton, TE, Nampa, ID

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	27.9 ppg	7	70
Rushing	174.3 ypg	6	48
Passing	200.1 ypg	10	93
Total	374.4 ypg	8	84
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	17.2 ppg	1	11
Rushing	97.0 ypg	1	5
Passing	239.2 ypg	7	70
Total	336.2 ypg	1	20
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
+9	+0.64	2	26

OFFENSE Stanford relies on its power running game to set up play-action in its pro-style attack. Replacing departed tailback Stepfan Taylor, a three-time 1,000-yard rusher, is a huge priority. Seniors Anthony Wilkerson and Tyler Gaffney look to be the top options. Gaffney is back with the team after a one-year stint in professional baseball.

Whoever wins the job — and don't rule out a by-committee approach — will be running behind one of the best offensive lines in the nation. With four of five starters returning, including consensus All-American David Yankey, Stanford will continue its ground-and-pound approach.

Directing the offense will be sophomore Kevin Hogan, who went 5–0 as a starter — with four of the five wins coming against top-25 teams — after taking over for Josh Nunes last season. Hogan is a dual-threat who rushed for 263 yards on 55 attempts.

With so much emphasis on the running game combined with the heavy use of tight ends in the passing attack, the wide receiver position hasn't been too productive at Stanford in recent years. In 2012, true wideouts accounted for only 33 percent of Stanford's receptions, with the rest going to backs, tight ends and fullbacks. Junior Ty Montgomery is the only wideout with legitimate game experience. Montgomery showed explosiveness as a true freshman in 2011, when he averaged 14.6 yards on 24 catches, but he was slowed by injuries in 2012 (8.2 yards on 26 catches).

5

The Cardinal have played in five overtime games in the last two seasons, winning three. Stanford had played in only four overtime games in the previous 15 years.

Tight ends accounted for 39 percent of the passing production last year, headlined by unanimous All-American Zach Ertz and his 69 catches. With Ertz and Levine Toilolo jumping early to the NFL Draft, Luke Kaumatule is next in line to be the No. 1 tight end target.

DEFENSE Stanford's aggressive 3-4 scheme, which ranked No. 1 nationally last year in sacks, second in tackles for a loss and fifth against the run, returns many of the stars who made 2012's edition one of the best in the country. The front seven should feature three preseason first-team All-Pac-12 picks — outside linebacker Trent Murphy, inside backer Shayne Skov and defensive end Ben Gardner.

The strength of the defense could be the secondary. Ed Reynolds and Jordan Richards form possibly the top safety duo in the country. Reynolds hauled in six interceptions last year and returned three of them for scores. While Reynolds had the picks, Richards roamed centerfield as one of the most dangerous hitters in the league.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Jordan Williamson, who took some flak for his performance in the Fiesta Bowl two years ago, traveled the road to redemption in 2012, hitting a clutch field goal in overtime to beat Oregon and then drilling a pair of field goals in the Rose Bowl. Ben Rhyne looks to be top candidate to replace Daniel Zychlinski at punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Expectations have never been higher for Stanford and David Shaw, the Pac-12's Coach of the Year in both 2011 and '12. What Jim Harbaugh, Toby Gerhart and Andrew Luck started, Shaw has taken to the next level by leading the Cardinal to the 2012 Pac-12 championship — the school's first since 1999 — and topping Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl.

The Cardinal will once again be in the hunt for the Pac-12 title, thanks to their run-based pro-style offense that grinds out yards and a defense that has been among the best in the league in recent years.

The schedule is not easy. Stanford hosts Oregon but has to play three of the best teams in the Pac-12 South — Arizona State, USC and UCLA. The Nov. 7 date with Oregon could determine both teams' championship fate.

SHAYNE SKOV

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"They are going to be up there again this year. I see no reason why they shouldn't. They will be one of the best in the league."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	7	Ty Montgomery (Jr.)	9	Kodi Whitfield (So.)
WR	89	Devon Cajuste (So.)	39	Kelsey Young (So.)
LT	70	Andrus Peat (So.)	78	Kyle Murphy (So.)
LG	**54**	**David Yankey (Sr.)**	57	Johnny Caspers (Fr.)
C	**65**	**Khalil Wilkes (Sr.)**	61	Conor McFadden (Jr.)
RG	**76**	**Kevin Danser (Sr.)**	51	Josh Garnett (So.)
RT	**73**	**Cameron Fleming (Jr.)**	74	Brendon Austin (So.)
TE	98	Luke Kaumatule (So.)	83	Davis Dudchock (Jr.)
QB	8	Kevin Hogan (So.)	5	Evan Crower (So.)
FB	**85**	**Ryan Hewitt (Sr.)**	36	Lee Ward (Jr.)
RB	32	Anthony Wilkerson (Sr.)	25	Tyler Gaffney (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**49**	**Ben Gardner (Sr.)**	90	Josh Mauro (Sr.)
DT	58	David Parry (Jr.)	97	Anthony Hayes (So.)
DE	**91**	**Henry Anderson (Jr.)**	7	Aziz Shittu (So.)
OLB	**93**	**Trent Murphy (Sr.)**	48	Kevin Anderson (So.)
ILB	**11**	**Shayne Skov (Sr.)**	35	Jarek Lancaster (Sr.)
ILB	**17**	**A.J. Tarpley (Jr.)**	40	Joe Hemschoot (Jr.)
OLB	43	Blake Lueders (Sr.)	9	James Vaughters (Jr.)
CB	**25**	**Alex Carter (So.)**	31	Barry Browning (Sr.)
CB	2	Wayne Lyons (Jr.)	38	Ra'Chard Pippens (So.)
SS	**8**	**Jordan Richards (Jr.)**	22	Kyle Olugbode (Jr.)
FS	**29**	**Ed Reynolds (Jr.)**	5	Devon Carrington (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Jordan Williamson (Jr.)	KR	7	Ty Montgomery (Jr.)
P	14	Ben Rhyne (Jr.)	PR	9	Kodi Whitfield (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Josh Nunes, 235-124-1,643-7, 10 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Hogan, 55 att., 263 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Ty Montgomery, 26 rec., 213 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Shayne Skov, 81
Sacks: Trent Murphy, 10
Interceptions: Ed Reynolds, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **37**

PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **4**

Washington HUSKIES

AUSTIN SEFERIAN-JENKINS

OFFENSE A badly worn Husky Stadium has been torn down and put back together in majestic fashion. Washington's next restoration project is senior quarterback Keith Price. Entering coach Steve Sarkisian's fifth year in Seattle, the Huskies have new digs, 16 starters returning and a toned-down schedule. They have a chance to regain long-lost prominence. Much depends on whether the Huskies can get Price — who regressed from a sensational sophomore showing to a decidedly mediocre junior campaign — back on track.

With so much weighing on the coming season, Washington has gone to drastic means to revamp Price. A new quarterbacks coach (former Huskies QB Marques Tuiasosopo) was brought in to tutor him; a no-huddle, up-tempo offense was installed in an effort to jump start his considerable playmaking ability; and Sarkisian sat him down in the offseason and tried to offer more of his quarterback expertise.

At running back, a potentially disastrous situation turned out far better than anyone could have hoped when starting tailback Jesse Callier tore up a knee in last season's opener without getting a carry. Bishop Sankey, an unproven backup, took over and rushed for 1,439 yards and 16 touchdowns, readily establishing himself as one of the Pac-12's better backs. The Huskies will have both juniors available.

8

Washington is the only school in the Pac-12 that hasn't won at least eight games in any season over the past 11 years.

Here's why Price's 2012 struggles were so confounding: In wide receiver Kasen Williams and tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins, he had one of college football's most effective young pass-catching combos. As sophomores, Williams hauled in 77 passes for 878 yards and six scores, and Seferian-Jenkins caught 69 passes for 850 yards and seven TDs.

Four offensive line starters return in junior left tackle Micah Hatchie, sophomore left guard Dexter Charles, junior right guard Mike Criste and junior right tackle Ben Riva, all of whom were forced into action as young players and are now battle-tested.

DEFENSE The Huskies return plenty of experience across their front wall, but D-line might be the team's weakest position area. End Josh Shirley is an accomplished pass-rusher but has struggled against the run. End Andrew Hudson and tackle Danny Shelton can get into opposing backfields, but they disappear at times against the better teams.

The Huskies got a lot faster at linebacker last season when newly hired defensive coordinator Justin Wilcox teamed three former safeties together in John Timu, Travis Feeney and Shaq Thompson. Collectively, these three linebackers came up with seven interceptions and eight sacks. Thompson is a potential All-American.

The secondary will get the biggest makeover with two new starters. Back are senior strong safety Sean Parker and sophomore cornerback Marcus Peters. Parker is a big hitter and the leader of this group. Peters, inconsistent at times, will assume the role as top cover corner. Joining them in the lineup are senior free safety Will Shamburger and senior cornerback Greg Ducre, on-and-off starters throughout their careers.

SPECIALISTS Dependable senior Travis Coons was an exhaustive, do-everything kicker, handling field goals (9-of-14), extra points (perfect on 39 tries), punting (39.8 yards per kick) and kickoffs, but he may have to relinquish the latter duty. The Huskies want to get incoming freshman placekicker Cameron Van Winkle, described as having a big-league leg, immediately in the mix in some manner.

FINAL ANALYSIS With a more imposing Husky Stadium, a new era of Washington football excellence is expected. The Huskies have nearly everyone back, but they need Price at the top of his game.

Anything short of eight or nine wins and more serious title contention will be disappointing for a program eager to return to the national conversation.

THE QUOTE

"They've got to refine a few things on the offensive line. They had a few games where they simply couldn't protect."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**2**	**Kasen Williams (Jr.)**	4	Jaydon Mickens (So.)
WR	**19**	**DiAndre Campbell (Jr.)**	3	James Johnson (Sr.)
LT	**72**	**Micah Hatchie (Jr.)**	52	Jake Eldrenkamp (Fr.)
LG	**76**	**Dexter Charles (So.)**	60	Shane Brostek (So.)
C	75	Erik Kohler (Jr.)		Dane Crane (Fr.)
RG	**78**	**Mike Criste (Jr.)**	70	James Atoe (Jr.)
RT	**59**	**Ben Riva (Jr.)**	74	Nathan Dean (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**A. Seferian-Jenkins (Jr.)**	84	Michael Hartvigson (Jr.)
QB	**17**	**Keith Price (Sr.)**	10	Cyler Miles (Fr.)
FB	28	Psalm Wooching (Fr.)	43	Cooper Pelluer (Jr.)
RB	**25**	**Bishop Sankey (Jr.)**	12	Dwayne Washington (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**93**	**Andrew Hudson (Jr.)**	91	Connor Cree (So.)
DT	**71**	**Danny Shelton (Jr.)**	57	Drew Schultz (Jr.)
DT	55	Sione Potoa'e (Sr.)	99	Josh Banks (Sr.)
DE	22	Josh Shirley (Jr.)	44	Pio Vatuvei (So.)
OLB	**41**	**Travis Feeney (So.)**	42	Cory Littleton (So.)
ILB	**10**	**John Timu (Jr.)**	50	Thomas Tutogi (Sr.)
OLB	**7**	**Shaq Thompson (So.)**	58	Jamaal Kearse (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Marcus Peters (So.)**	26	Travell Dixon (Jr.)
CB	18	Greg Ducre (Sr.)		Jermaine Kelly (Fr.)
SS	**1**	**Sean Parker (Sr.)**	32	Tre Watson (Sr.)
FS	13	Will Shamburger (Sr.)	27	Trevor Walker (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Travis Coons (Sr.)	**KR**	4	Jaydon Mickens (So.)
P	46	Travis Coons (Sr.)	**PR**	2	Kasen Williams (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Keith Price, 432-263-2,726-13, 19 TDs

Rushing: Bishop Sankey, 289 att., 1,439 yds., 16 TDs

Receiving: Kasen Williams, 77 rec., 878 yds., 6 TDs

Tackles: John Timu, 91

Sacks: Andrew Hudson, 6.5, Josh Shirley, 6.5

Interceptions: Marcus Peters, 3; Shaq Thompson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Otto Greule Jr/Getty Images

Head Coach: Steve Sarkisian
Record at School: 26-25 (4 years)
Career Record: 26-25 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Kiesau
Defensive Coordinator: Justin Wilcox
Seattle, WA
Husky Stadium (72,500)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-5 (PAC-12)

August	
31	Boise State
September	
14	vs. Illinois #
21	Idaho State
28	Arizona
October	
5	at Stanford
12	Oregon
19	at Arizona State
26	California
November	
9	Colorado
15	at UCLA
23	at Oregon State
29	Washington State

#Chicago, IL

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 5-4)

Sept.	1	San Diego State	W	21-12
Sept.	8	at LSU	L	3-41
Sept.	15	Portland State	W	52-13
Sept.	27	Stanford	W	17-13
Oct.	6	at Oregon	L	21-52
Oct.	13	USC	L	14-24
Oct.	20	at Arizona	L	17-52
Oct.	27	Oregon State	W	20-17
Nov.	2	at California	W	21-13
Nov.	10	Utah	W	34-15
Nov.	17	at Colorado	W	38-3
Nov.	23	at Washington State (ot)	L	28-31
Dec.	22	vs. Boise State #	L	26-28

#MAACO Bowl Las Vegas

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Damore'ea Stringfellow, WR, Perris, CA
2. Elijah Qualls, DT, Petaluma, CA
3. Troy Williams, QB, Los Angeles, CA
4. John Ross, WR, Long Beach, CA
5. Darrell Daniels, WR, Pittsburg, CA
6. Joe Mathis, DT, Ontario, CA
7. Dane Crane, C, Irvine, CA
8. Jermaine Kelly, CB, Los Angeles, CA
9. Sean Constantine, LB, Bellevue, WA
10. Trevor Walker, S, Arlington, TX

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	PAC-12	National
Scoring	24.0 ppg	9	88
Rushing	142.4 ypg	8	84
Passing	212.9 ypg	8	81
Total	355.2 ypg	10	97
Defense	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
Scoring	24.2 ppg	4	39
Rushing	160.1 ypg	5	61
Passing	197.3 ypg	2	23
Total	357.4 ypg	4	31
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**PAC-12**	**National**
+5	+0.38	6	39

Washington State COUGARS

NATIONAL FORECAST 68
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Mike Leach
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 87-52 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Leach
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Breske
Pullman, WA
Martin Stadium (33,522)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-7 (PAC-12)

August		
31	at Auburn	
September		
7	at USC	
14	Southern Utah	
21	Idaho	
28	Stanford #	
October		
5	at California	
12	Oregon State	
19	at Oregon	
31	Arizona State	
November		
16	at Arizona	
23	Utah	
29	at Washington	

#Seattle, WA

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 1-8)

Aug. 30	at BYU		L	6–30
Sept. 8	Eastern Washington		W	24–20
Sept. 14	at UNLV		W	35–27
Sept. 22	Colorado		L	34–35
Sept. 29	vs. Oregon %		L	26–51
Oct. 6	at Oregon State		L	6–19
Oct. 13	California		L	17–31
Oct. 27	at Stanford		L	17–24
Nov. 3	at Utah		L	6–49
Nov. 10	UCLA		L	36–44
Nov. 17	at Arizona State		L	7–46
Nov. 23	Washington	(ot)	W	31–28

%Seattle

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Daquawn Brown, CB, Los Angeles, CA
2. Tyler Bruggman, QB, Phoenix, AZ
3. River Cracraft, WR, Trabuco Canyon, CA
4. Vince Mayle, WR, Natomas, CA*
5. Cody O'Connell, Wenatchee, WA
6. Riley Sorenson, T, Santa Margarita, CA
7. Jacob Seydel, T, Riverside, CA*
8. Charleston White, DB, Amarillo, TX
9. Darius Lemora, S, Port Arthur, TX
10. Paulo Lepua, DL, Harbor City, CA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	20.4 ppg	11	106
Rushing	29.1 ypg	12	120
Passing	330.4 ypg	1	9
Total	359.5 ypg	9	94
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	33.7 ppg	10	98
Rushing	163.3 ypg	6	64
Passing	262.7 ypg	10	98
Total	425.9 ypg	9	81
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-9	-0.75	11	101

OFFENSE Now that Jeff Tuel has graduated, Connor Halliday takes over as the No. 1 guy after sharing the starting job last year. Halliday needs to improve his accuracy. A gunslinger who tends to force things, Halliday threw 15 touchdown passes and 13 interceptions in 2012. He completed 52 percent of his throws, which is unacceptable to coach Mike Leach, who demands better precision.

If Halliday struggles, redshirt freshman Austin Apodaca might be good enough to replace him right away. Apodaca threw for 3,849 yards with 44 TDs and 10 interceptions as a senior in high school.

The Cougs had the worst running game in the country last year, rushing 252 times for a net of only 349 yards. Teondray Caldwell did a decent job in limited work last year, averaging a respectable 4.8 yards on his 56 attempts. Arizona transfer Daniel Jenkins will battle Caldwell for the starting job. Jenkins backed up Ka'Deem Carey last year, rushing for 293 yards and two touchdowns. He is eligible immediately.

But Leach's offense isn't called the Run Raid — it's the Air Raid, and the Cougs have talented receivers to make it fly. Gabe Marks caught 49 passes for 560 yards and two TDs last year as a true freshman. The Cougars are expecting an immediate contribution from junior college transfer Vince Mayle. He has good size (6'3", 220) and great hands, plus he loves to block.

10

It's been 10 years since the Cougars last appeared in a bowl game, beating Vince Young and Texas in the 2003 Holiday Bowl to cap a third consecutive 10-win season.

DEFENSE Washington State allowed an average of 33.7 points and 425.9 yards per game, numbers that don't sound very good. But the defense had a few more bright moments than the offense.

The line played a big part in Washington State's surprising win over Washington in the Apple Cup. Toni Pole's interception and runback to a near-TD in overtime is already considered one of the greatest defensive plays in Cougar history. Pole returns to give the Cougs a pair of 300-pound rocks at tackle, along with Xavier Cooper.

At linebacker, the Cougs have a physical player in Darryl Monroe, a playmaker in Cyrus Coen and a pass-rusher and run-stopper in Logan Mayes. Free safety Deone Bucannon led the Cougars with four interceptions last year and returns to anchor the secondary. Washington State allowed 262.7 passing yards per game, intercepted 15 passes and gave up 26 passing touchdowns.

SPECIALISTS An Andrew Furney Fan Club was started after the Cougar kicker booted a 60-yard field goal at the end of the first half against Eastern Washington. The senior had a decent season, converting 14-of-20 field goals, including the 27-yarder that beat Washington in overtime. Michael Bowlin was sixth in the Pac-12, averaging 42.0 yards per punt. Bowlin also handles kickoff duties for the Cougs.

FINAL ANALYSIS Leach arrived in Pullman last year with warranted fanfare. The new Washington State coach had led Texas Tech to 10 bowl games. But Leach's Air Raid offense sputtered.

The season was marked with big losses and a controversy involving WSU's all-time leading receiver, Marquess Wilson, who left the team in November after claiming verbal, mental and physical abuse by the coaching staff. That prompted Washington State and Pac-12 investigations, which cleared the staff of any wrongdoing.

Most Cougar fans support Leach's disciplined approach, believing that a culture change was necessary after Washington State went 9–40 during the previous four seasons under Paul Wulff.

From all indications, players know what to expect from Leach now. They're all on board, pulling in the same direction. That is a good start, but the Cougars still have work to do. They should be improved, but it would be a bit of a surprise if they flirted with a .500 record.

CONNOR HALLIDAY

THE QUOTE

"They are going to need some receivers. ... They've got to get a quarterback, particularly to do what they want to do."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	80	Dominique Williams (So.)		Vince Mayle (Jr.)
WR	82	Bobby Ratliff (Jr.)	15	Robert Lewis (Fr.)
WR	84	Gabe Marks (So.)	**88**	**Isiah Myers (Jr.)**
WR	**19**	**Brett Bartolone (So.)**	5	Rickey Galvin (Jr.)
LT	**63**	**Gunnar Eklund (So.)**	71	Jacob Seydel (Jr.)
LG	72	Joe Dahl (So.)	**77**	**John Fullington (Sr.)**
C	**60**	**Elliott Bosch (Sr.)**		Carlos Freeman (Jr.)
RG	66	Matt Goetz (Sr.)	**69**	**Jake Rodgers (Jr.)**
RT	76	Rico Forbes (Sr.)		Riley Sorenson (Jr.)
QB	12	Connor Halliday (Jr.)	2	Austin Apodaca (Fr.)
RB	34	Teondray Caldwell (So.)		Daniel Jenkins (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	71	Matthew Bock (Sr.)	50	Lyman Faoliu (Jr.)
NT	**95**	**Ioane Gauta (Sr.)**	52	Darryl Paulo (So.)
DT	**96**	**Xavier Cooper (So.)**	98	Toni Pole (Jr.)
LB	83	Logan Mayes (Jr.)	40	Kache Palacio (So.)
LB	**42**	**Cyrus Coen (Jr.)**	21	Eric Oertel (Sr.)
LB	**13**	**Darryl Monroe (So.)**	8	Jeremiah Allison (So.)
LB	**51**	**Justin Sagote (Sr.)**	44	Tana Pritchard (So.)
CB	6	Damante Horton (Sr.)	2	Nolan Washington (Sr.)
CB	**4**	**Anthony Carpenter (Sr.)**	26	Alex Jackson (Fr.)
SS	**22**	**Casey Locker (Sr.)**	30	Taylor Taliulu (So.)
FS	**20**	**Deone Bucannon (Sr.)**	48	Mitchell Peterson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Andrew Furney (Sr.)	KR	34	Teondray Caldwell (So.)
P	46	Michael Bowlin (Sr.)	PR	19	Brett Bartolone (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Connor Halliday, 290-151-1,874-13, 15 TDs
Rushing: Teondray Caldwell, 56 att., 269 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Brett Bartolone, 53 rec., 435 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Deone Bucannon, 106
Sacks: Four players tied with 3
Interceptions: Deone Bucannon, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Craig Mitchelldyer

SOUTHEASTERN PREVIEW

PRESEASON ALL-SEC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	JOHNNY MANZIEL	6-1	200	So.	Texas A&M
RB	TODD GURLEY	6-1	218	So.	Georgia
RB	T.J. YELDON	6-2	218	So.	Alabama
WR	AMARI COOPER	6-1	208	Jr.	Alabama
WR	JORDAN MATTHEWS	6-3	205	Sr.	Vanderbilt
TE	ARTHUR LYNCH	6-5	258	Sr.	Georgia
C	TRAVIS SWANSON	6-5	314	Sr.	Arkansas
G	GABE JACKSON	6-4	335	Sr.	Mississippi State
G	ANTHONY STEEN	6-3	309	Sr.	Alabama
T	CYRUS KOUANDJIO	6-6	310	Jr.	Alabama
T	JAKE MATTHEWS	6-5	305	Sr.	Texas A&M

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	JADEVEON CLOWNEY	6-6	272	Jr.	South Carolina
DE	CHRIS SMITH	6-3	266	Sr.	Arkansas
DT	DOMINIQUE EASLEY	6-2	283	Sr.	Florida
DT	ANTHONY JOHNSON	6-3	304	Jr.	LSU
LB	JORDAN JENKINS	6-3	257	So.	Georgia
LB	A.J. JOHNSON	6-2	240	Jr.	Tennessee
LB	C.J. MOSLEY	6-2	232	Sr.	Alabama
CB	ANDRE HAL	6-0	184	Sr.	Vanderbilt
CB	LOUCHEIZ PURIFOY	6-1	185	Jr.	Florida
S	HAHA CLINTON-DIX	6-1	208	Jr.	Alabama
S	CRAIG LOSTON	6-2	205	Sr.	LSU

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CAREY SPEAR	5-10	190	Sr.	Vanderbilt
P	KYLE CHRISTY	6-3	193	Jr.	Florida
KR	ANDRE DEBOSE	5-11	189	Sr.	Florida
PR	MARCUS MURPHY	5-9	185	Jr.	Missouri

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	AJ MCCARRON	6-4	214	Sr.	Alabama
RB	JEREMY HILL	6-2	235	So.	LSU
RB	KEITH MARSHALL	5-11	216	So.	Georgia
WR	MIKE EVANS	6-5	225	So.	Texas A&M
WR	DONTE MONCRIEF	6-3	216	Jr.	Ole Miss
TE	RORY ANDERSON	6-5	218	Jr.	South Carolina
C	JAMES STONE	6-3	300	Sr.	Tennessee
G	CHRIS BURNETTE	6-2	322	Sr.	Georgia
G	AARON MORRIS	6-5	330	Jr.	Ole Miss
T	WESLEY JOHNSON	6-5	285	Sr.	Vanderbilt
T	ANTONIO RICHARDSON	6-6	332	Jr.	Tennessee

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ALVIN DUPREE	6-4	254	Jr.	Kentucky
DE	C.J. JOHNSON	6-3	233	Jr.	Ole Miss
DT	BYRAN JONES	6-2	310	Sr.	Arkansas
DT	KELCY QUARLES	6-4	293	Jr.	South Carolina
LB	LAMIN BARROW	6-2	232	Sr.	LSU
LB	ADRIAN HUBBARD	6-6	252	Jr.	Alabama
LB	DENZEL NKEMDICHE	5-11	203	So.	Ole Miss
CB	DESHAZOR EVERETT	6-0	185	Jr.	Texas A&M
CB	MARCUS ROBERSON	6-0	178	So.	Florida
S	KENNY LADLER	6-0	205	Sr.	Vanderbilt
S	NICKOE WHITLEY	6-1	205	Sr.	Mississippi State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CODY PARKEY	6-0	186	Sr.	Auburn
P	STEVEN CLARK	6-5	232	Sr.	Auburn
KR	MARCUS MURPHY	5-9	185	Jr.	Missouri
PR	JONATHAN KRAUSE	5-11	182	Sr.	Vanderbilt

AP Photo/Dave Martin

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. GEORGIA **BULLDOGS** 10-3, 7-1 SEC
2. SOUTH CAROLINA **GAMECOCKS** 10-2, 6-2 SEC
3. FLORIDA **GATORS** 9-3, 5-3 SEC
4. VANDERBILT **COMMODORES** 8-4, 4-4 SEC
5. TENNESSEE **VOLUNTEERS** 6-6, 3-5 SEC
6. MISSOURI **TIGERS** 5-7, 1-7 SEC
7. KENTUCKY **WILDCATS** 4-8, 1-7 SEC

WEST

1. ALABAMA **CRIMSON TIDE** 13-0, 8-0 SEC
2. TEXAS A&M **AGGIES** 10-2, 6-2 SEC
3. LSU **TIGERS** 9-3, 5-3 SEC
4. OLE MISS **REBELS** 7-5, 4-4 SEC
5. MISSISSIPPI STATE **BULLDOGS** 6-6, 3-5 SEC
6. AUBURN **TIGERS** 6-6, 2-6 SEC
7. ARKANSAS **RAZORBACKS** 5-7, 1-7 SEC

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: ALABAMA OVER GEORGIA

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Alabama
2. Florida
3. Ole Miss
4. LSU
5. Texas A&M
6. Auburn
7. Georgia
8. South Carolina
9. Mississippi State
10. Vanderbilt
11. Tennessee
12. Arkansas
13. Kentucky
14. Missouri

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	2	2	1	4	3	1	2
ARKANSAS	13	14	10	13	4	12	13
AUBURN	14	7	11	12	10	13	10
FLORIDA	8	12	9	6	2	4	1
GEORGIA	3	1	2	3	9	8	8
KENTUCKY	11	13	14	14	11	9	14
LSU	7	5	4	5	5	2	4
MISSISSIPPI STATE	5	4	13	7	8	7	9
MISSOURI	9	10	7	11	14	11	11
OLE MISS	6	8	5	9	7	3	7
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	11	8	10	1	14	5
TENNESSEE	12	6	12	1	12	5	12
TEXAS A&M	1	3	6	2	13	10	6
VANDERBILT	10	9	3	8	6	6	3

Florida GATORS

NATIONAL FORECAST 13
SEC EAST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Will Muschamp
Record at School: 18-8 (2 years)
Career Record: 18-8 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Pease
Defensive Coordinator: D.J. Durkin
Gainesville, FL
Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 (SEC)

August		
31	Toledo	
September		
7	at Miami (Fla.)	
21	Tennessee	
28	at Kentucky	
October		
5	Arkansas	
12	at LSU	
19	at Missouri	
November		
2	vs. Georgia #	
9	Vanderbilt	
16	at South Carolina	
23	Georgia Southern	
30	Florida State	

#Jacksonville, FL

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Sept.	1	Bowling Green	W	27–14
Sept.	8	at Texas A&M	W	20–17
Sept.	15	at Tennessee	W	37–20
Sept.	22	Kentucky	W	38–0
Oct.	6	LSU	W	14–6
Oct.	13	at Vanderbilt	W	31–17
Oct.	20	South Carolina	W	44–11
Oct.	27	vs. Georgia %	L	9–17
Nov.	3	Missouri	W	14–7
Nov.	10	Louisiana	W	27–20
Nov.	17	Jacksonville State	W	23–0
Nov.	24	at Florida State	W	37–26
Jan.	2	vs. Louisville #	L	23–33

%Jacksonville #Sugar Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Vernon Hargreaves III, CB, Tampa, FL
2. Kelvin Taylor, RB, Belle Glade, FL
3. Alex Anzalone, LB, Wyomissing, PA
4. Daniel McMillian, LB, Jacksonville, FL
5. Marcell Harris, DB, Orlando, FL
6. Demarcus Robinson, WR, Fort Valley, GA
7. Tyler Moore, OL, Clearwater, FL*
8. Keanu Neal, DB, Bushnell, FL
9. Alvin Bailey, WR, Seffner, FL
10. Caleb Brantley, DT, Crescent City, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	26.5 ppg	10	76
Rushing	188.1 ypg	3	39
Passing	146.3 ypg	14	114
Total	334.4 ypg	12	103
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	14.5 ppg	2	5
Rushing	94.9 ypg	2	4
Passing	192.5 ypg	4	17
Total	287.5 ypg	2	5
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+15	1.15	3	7

OFFENSE Will Muschamp's second team in Gainesville won games through physical play and a grinding style, but its passing game did not put up a vintage Florida performance. The Gators' 146.3 passing yards per game were their second-lowest for a season since 1979.

Unquestioned as the primary quarterback, Jeff Driskel will need to improve his field vision and ability to read defenses. The junior is mobile, but he needs to do his part to decrease Florida's sack totals. Driskel could be an improved quarterback, but he may not have the receivers and tight ends to showcase his ability. The Gators are looking at cornerback Loucheiz Purifoy and incoming freshmen, led by Demarcus Robinson, to boost the receiving corps.

At running back, Matt Jones established himself as the top option in the spring, distancing himself from junior Mack Brown and freshman Kelvin Taylor. A physical back at 6'2", 226 pounds, Jones can run through contact and could be an anchor for Florida's ball control offense. Taylor, the son of Florida legend and NFL running back Fred Taylor, broke Emmitt Smith's state career rushing record as a junior.

One of the most optimistic developments during the offseason for the Gators' offense could be the improvement of the line. With Maryland transfer Max Garcia at guard and tackle D.J. Humphries adding weight, the left side of the line could be especially improved. At 280, Humphries is the only projected starter weighing less than 300 pounds.

7

The Florida defense allowed only seven plays of 30 yards or longer in 2012, the fewest in the SEC. LSU was next with 11.

DEFENSE Muschamp would prefer to have all his best players on the field at the same time, which presents an interesting dilemma with both Dante Fowler Jr. and Ronald Powell best suited for the "Buck" position, an end/linebacker hybrid. One could end up playing outside linebacker. Dominique Easley, who led the Gators with four sacks last season, can play both defensive end and tackle. If the Gators are thin anywhere up front, it's at tackle where Sharrif Floyd and Omar Hunter departed.

Linebacker will be the most untested part of the defense, but there's room for optimism. Sophomore Antonio Morrison moves from outside linebacker to the middle. He'll be the Gators' best hitter. Freshman linebacker Daniel McMillian was one of the breakout players of the spring. He has a nose for the ball and could become a starter as a rookie.

Depth is strong at cornerback, enabling Jaylen Watkins and Cody Riggs to play safety. They have a combined 33 career starts, mainly at cornerback. Marcus Roberson is a solid cover corner while Purifoy, who had three forced fumbles and two blocked kicks last season, is the top playmaker. Brian Poole, a special teams contributor as a true freshman, and incoming freshman Vernon Hargreaves III will be tough to ignore even in a crowded backfield.

SPECIALISTS A ball control offense needs a good punter, and the Gators have that in Kyle Christy. The junior averaged 45.8 yards per kick for a team that finished ninth nationally in net punting. The major question will be at kicker where the Gators will need to find a replacement for Caleb Sturgis, who made 24-of-28 field goals last year. Brad Phillips is the frontrunner for the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS Florida's final record looked like a typical season in Gainesville at 11–2 and a Sugar Bowl appearance, but the Gators were a high-wire act for most of the year. What's most encouraging is that Florida improved in key areas such as physical play and turnover margin (from minus-12 to plus-15).

Expect another tough running game and salty defense, but without an above-average passing attack, the Gators are built for another season of grind-it-out games.

JEFF DRISKEL

THE QUOTE

"I don't think they were the best offense, but Florida was the most difficult (offensive) team to prepare for last year."

– An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	**Quinton Dunbar (Jr.)**	11	Demarcus Robinson (Fr.)
WR	13	Latroy Pittman (So.)	4	Andre Debose (Sr.)
WR	8	Trey Burton (Sr.)	15	Loucheiz Purifoy (Jr.)
LT	70	D.J. Humphries (So.)	74	Trenton Brown (Jr.)
LG	76	Max Garcia (Jr.)	77	Ian Silberman (Jr.)
C	72	**Jonotthan Harrison (Sr.)**	64	Kyle Koehne (Sr.)
RG	67	**Jon Halapio (Sr.)**	63	Trip Thurman (So.)
RT	73	Tyler Moore (So.)	75	**Chaz Green (Jr.)**
QB	6	**Jeff Driskel (Jr.)**	10	Tyler Murphy (Jr.)
FB	41	Hunter Joyer (Jr.)	25	Gideon Ajagbe (Jr.)
RB	24	Matt Jones (So.)	33	Mack Brown (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	90	Jonathan Bullard (So.)	94	Bryan Cox Jr. (So.)
NT	4	Damien Jacobs (Sr.)	44	Leon Orr (Jr.)
DT	2	**Dominique Easley (Sr.)**	55	Darious Cummings (Jr.)
BUCK	6	Dante Fowler (So.)	7	Ronald Powell (Jr.)
WLB	49	Darrin Kitchens (Sr.)	13	Daniel McMillian (Fr.)
MLB	12	Antonio Morrison (So.)	51	Michael Taylor (Jr.)
SLB	7	Ronald Powell (Jr.)	11	Neiron Ball (Jr.)
CB	15	**Loucheiz Purifoy (Jr.)**		Vernon Hargreaves III (Fr.)
CB	5	Marcus Roberson (Jr.)	24	Brian Poole (So.)
S	20	Marcus Maye (Fr.)	21	Jabari Gorman (Jr.)
S	14	**Jaylen Watkins (Sr.)**	31	Cody Riggs (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Brad Phillips (Sr.)	KR	4	Andre Debose (Sr.)
P	4	Kyle Christy (Jr.)	PR	5	Marcus Roberson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jeff Driskel, 245-156-1,646-5 12 TDs
Rushing: Jeff Driskel, 118 att., 413 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Quinton Dunbar, 36 rec., 383, 4 TDs
Tackles: Loucheiz Purifoy, 51
Sacks: Dominique Easley, 4
Interceptions: Jaylen Watkins, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

NATIONAL FORECAST 4

SEC EAST PREDICTION 1

Georgia BULLDOGS

AARON MURRAY

THE QUOTE

"I watched the quarterbacks at the (NFL) combine, and (Aaron) Murray doesn't need to take a back seat to any of those guys."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	26	Malcolm Mitchell (Jr.)	17	Rantavious Wooten (Sr.)
WR	82	Michael Bennett (Jr.)	31	Chris Conley (Jr.)
LT	71	**John Theus (So.)**	79	Mark Beard (Jr.)
LG	64	**Dallas Lee (Sr.)**	73	Greg Pyke (Fr.)
C	61	**David Andrews (Jr.)**	60	Josh Cardiello (Fr.)
RG	68	**Chris Burnette (Sr.)**	74	Austin Long (Sr.)
RT	72	**Kenarious Gates (Sr.)**	63	Xzavier Ward (So.)
TE	88	**Arthur Lynch (Sr.)**	87	Jay Rome (So.)
QB	11	**Aaron Murray (Sr.)**	14	Hutson Mason (Jr.)
FB	43	Merritt Hall (So.)	48	Quayvon Hicks (So.)
RB	3	**Todd Gurley (So.)**	4	Keith Marshall (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	56	**Garrison Smith (Sr.)**	94	John Taylor (Fr.)
NT	96	Mike Thornton (Jr.)	93	Chris Mayes (So.)
DE	58	Sterling Bailey (So.)	47	Ray Drew (Jr.)
OLB	59	Jordan Jenkins (So.)	89	James DeLoach (So.)
ILB	52	**Amarlo Herrera (Jr.)**	38	Ryne Rankin (Fr.)
ILB	51	Ramik Wilson (Jr.)	45	Reggie Carter (Fr.)
STAR	25	Josh Harvey-Clemons (So.)	11	Connor Norman (Jr.)
CB	5	**Damian Swann (Jr.)**	37	Devin Bowman (So.)
CB	2	Sheldon Dawson (So.)	9	Reggie Wilkerson (Fr.)
SS	39	Corey Moore (Jr.)	11	Connor Norman (Jr.)
FS	28	Tray Matthews (Fr.)	20	Quincy Mauger (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Marshall Morgan (So.)	KR	26	Malcolm Mitchell (Jr.)
P	32	Collin Barber (So.)	PR	27	Rhett McGowan (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Aaron Murray, 386-249-3,893-10, 36 TDs

Rushing: Todd Gurley, 222 att., 1,385 yds., 17 TDs

Receiving: Malcolm Mitchell, 40 rec., 572 yds., 4 TDs

Tackles: Amarlo Herrera, 70

Sacks: Jordan Jenkins, 5

Interceptions: Damian Swann, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tom DiPace

OFFENSE The best offense in Georgia history, at least statistically speaking, returns eight starters, including a fourth-year quarterback. It's hard to see how the Bulldogs could get better. But they could.

Aaron Murray's ability to put up big numbers isn't in question, and he played well enough against Alabama's stout defense in the SEC Championship Game to answer critics who claim he doesn't perform in big games. But Murray still needs to eliminate those brief stretches where he struggles, such as the three-interception first half that almost cost Georgia its win against Florida last year.

Tailbacks Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall (who combined for 2,144 rushing yards and 26 total touchdowns last year) need to avoid sophomore slumps, and they'll get increased attention from defenses. And the offensive line, which was average last year, needs to be good from the outset this year, with Georgia's front-loaded schedule. The Bulldogs may need their offense to carry them this year — and it's capable of doing just that.

7.09

Georgia's offense averaged 7.09 yards per play last year, which was the best in the nation, barely ahead of Texas A&M (7.08) and Oklahoma State (7.01).

DEFENSE There's a lot of optimism around the Bulldogs about their young defense, but the fact is they still have so many playmakers to replace: Two-time first-team All-American Jarvis Jones, leading tackler Alec Ogletree, three-fourths of the starting secondary and almost the entire defensive line.

Four players who finished last year as starters return. One of them, sophomore outside linebacker Jordan Jenkins, could emerge as a star this year. Junior inside linebacker Amarlo Herrera and junior cornerback Damian Swann are also All-SEC caliber.

But the performance of the defense will hinge on the players who fill in the other roles. Josh Harvey-Clemons, a sophomore who rarely played last year, will see a lot of snaps at a hybrid Star safety/linebacker position. The nose tackle spot, so key to a 3-4 defense, will be filled by a committee. Safety Tray Matthews could become the first true freshman to start Georgia's opener since defensive coordinator Todd Grantham was hired in 2010.

It's not a defense without talent: Several years of good recruiting took care of that. The question is whether Grantham can mold this unit into a successful one soon enough for the team to survive Clemson, South Carolina and LSU — or whether Georgia will need to win a bunch of high-scoring games.

SPECIALISTS Erratic hardly begins to describe Marshall Morgan's first season as Georgia's placekicker. He eventually settled down, but early in the season he missed three extra points, had another blocked and had several more ding off the uprights. But he also booted two field goals from over 50 yards out. Punter Collin Barber, also a freshman last year, was the direct opposite of Morgan, with hardly any shanks but also few memorable bombs, and less than a third were downed inside the 20. While the two kicking spots are set, the return specialist roles remains in flux. Malcolm Mitchell provides the most breakaway ability, but he also made some ill-advised decisions. Gurley had a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the opener, then hardly returned any kicks after that.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's enough talent on this team for Mark Richt to take the program to the next level and win a national championship. But Georgia's schedule is much harder than it was last year, and with three potential top-10 teams in the first month, the season may be decided on two things: Whether the defense can start the season off at least being serviceable and whether the offense can be as good as last year. If the answer to both questions is yes, then the Bulldogs should be back in Atlanta in December, hoping the third time is a charm for winning the SEC title.

Head Coach: Mark Richt
Record at School: 118-40 (12 years)
Career Record: 118-40 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bobo
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Grantham
Athens, GA
Sanford Stadium (92,746)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 10-3, 7-1 (SEC)

August	
31	at Clemson
September	
7	South Carolina
21	North Texas
28	LSU
October	
5	at Tennessee
12	Missouri
19	at Vanderbilt
November	
2	vs. Florida #
9	Appalachian State
16	at Auburn
23	Kentucky
30	at Georgia Tech

#Jacksonville, FL

2012 RESULTS (12-2, 7-1)

Sept.	1	Buffalo	W	45-23
Sept.	8	at Missouri	W	41-20
Sept.	15	Florida Atlantic	W	56-20
Sept.	22	Vanderbilt	W	48-3
Sept.	29	Tennessee	W	51-44
Oct.	6	at South Carolina	L	7-35
Oct.	20	at Kentucky	W	29-24
Oct.	27	vs. Florida %	W	17-9
Nov.	3	Ole Miss	W	37-10
Nov.	10	at Auburn	W	38-0
Nov.	17	Georgia Southern	W	45-14
Nov.	24	Georgia Tech	W	42-10
Dec.	1	vs. Alabama &	L	28-32
Jan.	1	vs. Nebraska #	W	45-31

%Jacksonville &Atlanta #Capital One Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tray Matthews, S, Newnan, GA
2. Brice Ramsey, QB, Kingsland, GA
3. Tramel Terry, WR, Goose Creek, SC
4. Shaq Wiggins, CB, Tyrone, GA
5. Tim Kimbrough, ILB, Indianapolis, IN
6. Brandon Kublanow, OL, Marietta, GA
7. Brendan Langley, CB, Marietta, GA
8. Leonard Floyd, OLB, Eastman, GA
9. Toby Johnson, DT, College Park, GA*
10. A.J. Turman, RB, Orlando, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	37.8 ppg	3	19
Rushing	182.6 ypg	4	43
Passing	285.1 ypg	4	30
Total	467.6 ypg	3	22
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	19.6 ppg	6	18
Rushing	182.1 ypg	12	77
Passing	175.6 ypg	2	8
Total	357.8 ypg	6	32
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+11	+0.79	5	20

Kentucky WILDCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST 65
SEC EAST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Mark Stoops
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Neal Brown
Defensive Coordinators: D.J. Eliot
Lexington, KY
Commonwealth Stadium (67,942)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (SEC)

August		
31	vs. Western Kentucky #	
September		
7	Miami (Ohio)	
14	Louisville	
28	Florida	
October		
5	at South Carolina	
12	Alabama	
24	at Mississippi State	
November		
2	Alabama State	
9	Missouri	
16	at Vanderbilt	
23	at Georgia	
30	Tennessee	

#Nashville, TN

2012 RESULTS (2-10, 0-8)

Sept.	2	at Louisville	L	14–32
Sept.	8	Kent State	W	47–14
Sept.	15	Western Kentucky (ot)	L	31–32
Sept.	22	at Florida	L	0–38
Sept.	29	South Carolina	L	17–38
Oct.	6	Mississippi State	L	14–27
Oct.	13	at Arkansas	L	7–49
Oct.	20	Georgia	L	24–29
Oct.	27	at Missouri	L	10–33
Nov.	3	Vanderbilt	L	0–40
Nov.	17	Samford	W	34–3
Nov.	24	at Tennessee	L	17–37

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jason Hatcher, DE, Louisville, KY
2. Za'Darius Smith, DE, Greenville, AL*
3. Marcus McWilson, S, Youngstown, OH
4. Jojo Kemp, RB, Deland, FL
5. Ryan Timmons, WR, Frankfort, KY
6. Alvonte Bell, DE, Miramar, FL
7. Jaleel Hytchye, CB, Cincinnati, OH
8. Kyle Meadows, OL, West Chester, OH
9. Alex Montgomery, WR, Weston, FL
10. Javess Blue, WR, Babson Park, FL*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	17.9 ppg	14	116
Rushing	138.8 ypg	11	87
Passing	176.3 ypg	12	102
Total	315.0 ypg	13	113
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	31.0 ppg	13	85
Rushing	161.3 ypg	10	62
Passing	229.8 ypg	9	57
Total	391.0 ypg	11	59
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-4	-0.33	10	82

OFFENSE New coordinator Neal Brown is bringing back the "Air Raid" attack, which he learned in Lexington under Hal Mumme in the late 1990s and made his own at Texas Tech the last three years. The Red Raiders ranked in the top seven nationally in passing yards each season Brown was at the controls. He plans to spread out SEC defenses, turn up the tempo and frequently sound the sirens at Commonwealth Stadium — which will wail, as they did in the Mumme era, after every touchdown. First, he'll have to pick a trigger man.

Coaches were mostly mum on the three-way quarterback battle throughout spring and said the competition could go deep into preseason camp. All three sophomore contenders bring something to the table. Maxwell Smith completed 68.7 percent of his passes and averaged 322 yards through three games last fall before a season-ending ankle injury. Jalen Whitlow, who started UK's final seven games, is a dangerous dual-threat and shined brightest in the Spring Game, completing 17-of-28 passes for 193 yards and two touchdowns and rushing seven times for 49 yards. Patrick Towles is the physical prototype and entered with the most recruiting hype, but he's been inconsistent.

UK must replace a three-year starter at center and an All-American at right guard. The Wildcats have weapons at wideout in Demarco Robinson and A.J. Legree but will likely have to rely on true freshmen, like the dynamic Ryan Timmons, to fill out their thin receiving corps. A stable of tailbacks, led by speedy Raymond Sanders and a finally healthy Josh Clemons, will be useful.

24

Kentucky has scored more than 24 points only once in its last 20 games against teams the six major conferences. The Cats beat Ole Miss 30–13 late in the 2011 season.

DEFENSE Athletic director Mitch Barnhart said defense was a priority in hiring the replacement for former head coach Joker Phillips. By that measure, poaching Florida State defensive coordinator Mark Stoops was an overwhelming success. Even better that he brought along defensive line coach D.J. Eliot to coordinate the Cats' D. The Seminoles ranked 108th in yards allowed the year before Stoops arrived. They ranked fourth in 2011, second in 2012. The Wildcats, with less talent, are an even bigger project.

Scrapping the 3-4 that never seemed to take and going back to a 4-3 should help. So should moving the most talented veteran, 6'4", 254-pound Bud Dupree, back from linebacker to end and adding the nation's top junior college end, Za'Darius Smith. Both dominated spring practice and figure to revamp a pass rush that ranked 10th or worse in the SEC in sacks and tackles for a loss the last three seasons.

At linebacker, senior Avery Williamson can be a leader, and sophomore Khalid Henderson could become a star. But the secondary, outside of hard-hitting safety Ashely Lowery, is shaky at best. Stoops said all spring the team needed help there.

SPECIALISTS Landon Foster ranked fifth nationally among freshmen last season with a 42.9-yard punting average and had 22 kicks of 50-plus yards. The Cats are looking for a field goal kicker, though, and it could be incoming freshman Austin MacGinnis, rated No. 3 in the country by Rivals. Senior kickoff specialist Joe Mansour has a big leg but erratic accuracy. Robinson (punts) and DeMarcus Sweat (kickoffs) are UK's most dangerous return guys.

FINAL ANALYSIS Stoops has made all the right moves. He's reinvigorated the fan base (season ticket sales are way up), signed the program's highest-rated recruiting class in at least a dozen years, vowed to fix the defense and installed a (theoretically) high-powered offense. But he knows the roster, which got the last guy fired, leaves a lot to be desired. There's also the matter of the schedule, which at one point features Louisville, Florida, at South Carolina, Alabama all in a row. Anything above five wins would constitute magic.

BUD DUPREE

THE QUOTE

(Offensive coordinator) Neal Brown is very confident. He has a little bit of a swagger to him. He did a good job at Troy and Texas Tech."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	9	Demarco Robinson (Jr.)	83	DeMarcus Sweat (So.)
WR	6	A.J. Legree (So.)	81	Rashad Cunningham (So.
WR	23	Daryl Collins (So.)		Ryan Timmons (Fr.)
LT	77	**Darrian Miller (Jr.)**	51	T.J. Jones (Fr.)
LG	75	**Zach West (So.)**	76	Teven Eatmon-Nared (Jr.)
C	57	Zach Myers (Fr.)	72	Jon Toth (Fr.)
RG	79	**Kevin Mitchell (Sr.)**	71	John Gruenschlaeger (So.
RT	70	Jordan Swindle (So.)	58	Shaquille Love (So.)
TE	89	Tyler Robinson (Sr.)	80	Ronnie Shields (Jr.)
QB	13	**Jalen Whitlow (So.)**	11	Maxwell Smith (So.)
RB	4	Raymond Sanders (Sr.)	21	Josh Clemons (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	2	**Bud Dupree (Jr.)**		Jason Hatcher (Fr.)
DT	97	Mister Cobble (Sr.)	98	Thomas Chapman (Fr.)
DT	99	**Donte Rumph (Sr.)**	51	**Tristian Johnson (Sr.)**
DE	94	Za'Darius Smith (Jr.)	41	TraVaughn Paschal (Jr.)
OLB	22	Khalid Henderson (So.)	54	Malcolm McDuffen (Jr.)
MLB	40	**Avery Williamson (Sr.)**	10	Tyler Brause (Jr.)
OLB	32	**Miles Simpson (Jr.)**	34	Kory Brown (Jr.)
CB	16	Cody Quinn (So.)	15	J.D. Harmon (So.)
CB	3	Fred Tiller (So.)		Jaleel Hytchye (Fr.)
S	7	Daron Blaylock (So.)		Marcus McWilson (Fr.)
S	5	**Ashely Lowery (Jr.)**	18	Glenn Faulkner (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	88	Joe Mansour (Sr.)	KR	83	DeMarcus Sweat (So.)
P	9	Landon Foster (So.)	PR	9	Demarco Robinson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jalen Whitlow, 161-87-801-2, 3 TDs
Rushing: Raymond Sanders, 125 att., 669 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Demarco Robinson, 28 rec., 297 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Avery Williamson, 135
Sacks: Bud Dupree, 6.5
Interceptions: J.D. Harmon, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

NATIONAL FORECAST 48
SEC EAST PREDICTION 6

Missouri TIGERS

DORIAL GREEN-BECKHAM

THE QUOTE

"I don't think they have the skill at the wide receiver position or at running back that some of the other teams in the league did."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	85	Marcus Lucas (Sr.)	88	Jimmie Hunt (Jr.)
WR	15	Dorial Green-Beckham (So.)	**21**	**Bud Sasser (Jr.)**
WR	2	**L'Damian Washington (Sr.)**	14	Jaleel Clark (Sr.)
LT	68	**Justin Britt (Sr.)**	70	Anthony Gatti (Jr.)
LG	61	**Max Copeland (Sr.)**	73	Mitch Hall (So.)
C	77	**Evan Boehm (So.)**	51	Robert Luce (Jr.)
RG	60	Connor McGovern (So.)	63	Brad McNulty (So.)
RT	65	**Mitch Morse (Jr.)**	62	Taylor Chappell (So.)
TE	81	**Eric Waters (Sr.)**	80	Sean Culkin (Fr.)
QB	1	**James Franklin (Sr.)**	7	Maty Mauk (Fr.)
TB	20	Henry Josey (Jr.)	32	Russell Hansbrough (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	47	**Kony Ealy (Jr.)**	56	Shane Ray (So.)
DT	89	**Matt Hoch (Jr.)**	90	Harold Brantley (Fr.)
NG	96	Lucas Vincent (Jr.)	94	Marvin Foster (Sr.)
DE	52	**Michael Sam (Sr.)**	55	Brayden Burnett (Sr.)
WLB	12	Darvin Ruise (Jr.)	10	Kentrell Brothers (So.)
MLB	48	**Andrew Wilson (Sr.)**	30	Michael Scherer (Fr.)
SAM	8	Donovan Bonner (Sr.)	40	Clarence Green (So.)
CB	31	**E.J. Gaines (Sr.)**	26	Xavier Smith (Jr.)
CB	3	David Johnson (So.)	7	Randy Ponder (Sr.)
SS	17	Matt White (Sr.)	28	Ernest Payton (So.)
FS	9	**Braylon Webb (Jr.)**	4	Daniel Easterly (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Andrew Baggett (So.)	**KR**	6	Marcus Murphy (Jr.)
P	92	Christian Brinser (Jr.)	**PR**	6	Marcus Murphy (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: James Franklin, 234-139-1,562-7, 10 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Murphy, 46 att., 251 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Marcus Lucas, 46 rec., 509 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Andrew Wilson, 79
Sacks: Michael Sam, 4.5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

[#] Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

OFFENSE If he can hold off redshirt freshman Maty Mauk, senior James Franklin will enter his third season as the Tigers' starting quarterback. Franklin suffered through an injury-plagued junior year, prompting coach Gary Pinkel to open up the position to competition in the spring. Mauk appeared capable of leading the offense, and the two-time Gatorade Ohio Player of the Year could end up winning the job if Franklin doesn't return to form.

The return of tailback Henry Josey could also offer a boost. Josey missed all of last season after shredding his left knee in the 10th game of the 2011 season in which he rushed for 1,168 yards. If Josey isn't ready to carry the load, Russell Hansbrough might be after playing nine games as a true freshman. Marcus Murphy averaged 5.5 yards per carry in a reserve role in 2012.

Missouri's receiving corps is loaded with experience, but also with unfulfilled potential. Seniors Marcus Lucas and L'Damian Washington are closing in on 1,000 yards for their careers, and heralded high school recruit Dorial Green-Beckham could be on the cusp of a breakout season after leading the team with five touchdown receptions as a true freshman.

181

Missouri gave up 181 plays of 10 yards or more in 2012. Only two SEC teams gave up more, Tennessee (189) and Arkansas (195).

Four starters return on the line from a unit that was hit hard by injuries last season. Evan Boehm started all 12 games as a true freshman and is moving from guard to center this season in an effort to rectify snapping issues that plagued the Tigers in '12.

DEFENSE It's hard to imagine a unit that ranked 10th in the SEC getting much better now that All-SEC lineman Sheldon Richardson left early for the NFL. A good amount of playing experience returns on the line and in the secondary, but the experience wasn't all that great for a defense that accumulated only 21 sacks, seven interceptions and allowed an average of 5.5 yards on each snap.

Entering his second season as a starter, junior end Kony Ealy needs to emerge as a disruptive force. Four players return with starting experience from a secondary that allowed 44 pass plays of 20 yards or more. Cornerback E.J. Gaines is the best of a mediocre bunch. In two years as a starter, he's broken up 27 passes but has only three interceptions.

Middle linebacker Andrew Wilson will be looking to lead the team in tackles for a third consecutive year, but his 23 career starts represent the bulk of the Tigers' linebacker experience.

SPECIALISTS Murphy is back after scoring four touchdowns on returns, including three on punts. Andrew Baggett is the incumbent at kicker, but he did miss four extra points in his first year on the job. The punting position was wide open during spring drills, with a couple of walk-ons vying to replace Trey Barrow's steady two-year production.

FINAL ANALYSIS Missouri's first year in the SEC was rife with change, and it wasn't for the better as the Tigers suffered their first losing season since 2004. The changes continued in the offseason with the abrupt resignation of offensive coordinator David Yost, a longtime Pinkel assistant. Former offensive line coach Josh Henson is now in charge of a Missouri attack that found life in the SEC to be more physical — and low scoring — than the Big 12.

As Pinkel enters his 13th year at Missouri, faith in the Tigers boss could be floundering. The Tigers haven't suffered back-to-back losing seasons since Pinkel's first two years in Columbia, but their transition to the SEC was hardly smooth. After a clear step back in 2012, Missouri needs to move forward in 2013 or be left in the dust by their new conference foes.

Head Coach: Gary Pinkel
Record at School: 90-61 (12 years)
Career Record: 163-98-3 (22 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Josh Henson
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Steckel
Columbia, MO
Memorial Stadium (71,004)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 5-7, 1-7 (SEC)

August		
31	Murray State	
September		
7	Toledo	
21	at Indiana	
28	Arkansas State	
October		
5	at Vanderbilt	
12	at Georgia	
19	Florida	
26	South Carolina	
November		
2	Tennessee	
9	at Kentucky	
23	at Ole Miss	
30	Texas A&M	

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 2-6)

Sept.	1	SE Louisiana	W	62-10
Sept.	8	Georgia	L	20-41
Sept.	15	Arizona State	W	24-20
Sept.	22	at South Carolina	L	10-31
Sept.	29	at UCF	W	21-16
Oct.	6	Vanderbilt	L	15-19
Oct.	13	Alabama	L	10-42
Oct.	27	Kentucky	W	33-10
Nov.	3	at Florida	L	7-14
Nov.	10	at Tennessee (ot)	W	51-48
Nov.	17	Syracuse	L	27-31
Nov.	24	at Texas A&M	L	29-59

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chase Abbington, RB, St. Peter's, MO
2. Josh Augusta, DT, Peoria, IL
3. Marcus Loud, DE, Houston, TX
4. A.J. Logan, DT, Columbia, MO
5. Clay Rhodes, OT, Stillwell, KS
6. Antar Thompson, DT, Maplewood, MO
7. Eric Beisel, LB, Fenton, MO
8. Eddie Printz, QB, Marietta, GA
9. Joey Burkett, LB, Jefferson City, MO
10. Trent Hosick, QB, Kansas City, MO

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	25.8 ppg	11	80
Rushing	138.5 ypg	12	88
Passing	217.9 ypg	9	76
Total	356.4 ypg	11	96
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	28.4 ppg	11	68
Rushing	149.3 ypg	9	49
Passing	241.4 ypg	10	74
Total	390.7 ypg	10	58
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+1	+0.08	7	55

South Carolina GAMECOCKS

NATIONAL FORECAST 5
SEC EAST PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Steve Spurrier
Record at School: 66-37 (8 years)
Career Record: 208-77-2 (23 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinator:
Shawn Elliott, Steve Spurrier
Defensive Coordinator: Lorenzo Ward
Columbia, SC
Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 (SEC)

August	
29	North Carolina
September	
7	at Georgia
14	Vanderbilt
28	at UCF
October	
5	Kentucky
12	at Arkansas
19	at Tennessee
26	at Missouri
November	
2	Mississippi State
16	Florida
23	Coastal Carolina
30	Clemson

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 6-2)

Aug.	30	at Vanderbilt	W	17–13
Sept.	8	East Carolina	W	48–10
Sept.	15	UAB	W	49–6
Sept.	22	Missouri	W	31–10
Sept.	29	at Kentucky	W	38–17
Oct.	6	Georgia	W	35–7
Oct.	13	at LSU	L	21–23
Oct.	20	at Florida	L	11–44
Oct.	27	Tennessee	W	38–35
Nov.	10	Arkansas	W	38–20
Nov.	17	Wofford	W	24–7
Nov.	24	at Clemson	W	27–17
Jan.	1	vs. Michigan #	W	33–28

#Outback Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kelsey Griffin, DT, Hoschton, GA
2. Larenz Bryant, LB, Charlotte, NC
3. David Williams, RB, Philadelphia, PA
4. Na'Ty Rodgers, T, Waldorf, MD
5. D.J. Park, T, Dillon, SC
6. Connor Mitch, QB, Raleigh, NC
7. Pharoh Cooper, CB, Havelock, NC
8. Skai Moore, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
9. Mohamed Camara, S, Cumming, GA
10. Gerald Turner, DE, Goose Creek, SC

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	5	44
Rushing	138.5 ypg	13	89
Passing	238.1 ypg	6	57
Total	376.5 ypg	9	82
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	18.2 ppg	4	13
Rushing	120.7 ypg	4	17
Passing	194.9 ypg	5	21
Total	315.5 ypg	4	11
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+4	+0.31	6	43

OFFENSE At Florida in the 1990s, Steve Spurrier won while playing two quarterbacks at times. He might do it again this season. Connor Shaw's injuries gave Dylan Thompson opportunities last season, which ended by Thompson throwing the game-winning touchdown pass at the finish of the Outback Bowl. Thompson also played all of the previous game, a win over rival Clemson.

So what now? Thompson, a junior, says Spurrier told him to expect to play this season. Shaw, a senior, missed all of spring practices while undergoing foot surgery, but that didn't concern quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus.

Marcus Lattimore was the heart and soul of the Gamecocks' program for the past three seasons. But he turned pro early, after a devastating knee injury, and now Spurrier will try to replace him with another high-profile recruit, Mike Davis, who had 52 carries last season as a true freshman. Davis improved his pass-blocking this spring, which enabled him to beat out the slower Brandon Wilds for the job.

Bruce Ellington will step into the role of No. 1 receiver after Ace Sanders left early for the NFL Draft. Junior Nick Jones and sophomore Shaq Roland will also be major factors in the passing game.

Every offensive line starter returns except center T.J. Johnson, and that's a big loss because he started every game for the past three seasons. His replacement, redshirt freshman Cody Waldrop, struggled with snapping at times in the spring.

60.5

South Carolina has run the ball on 60.5 percent of its offensive snaps over the past two seasons.

DEFENSE Quite simply, no player in college football left a more indelible final impression in 2012 than defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, whose helmet-popping hit on Michigan running back Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl continued to wow everybody for months after it happened. Clowney now has 21 career sacks and 35.5 tackles for a loss. If offensive lines slide their protections toward Clowney, senior Chaz Sutton can take advantage.

Linebacker is the biggest question mark for the Gamecocks, who lost all three of their starters. They likely will start sophomore Kaiwan Lewis at the Mike spot — the linebacker responsible for aligning the defensive front before the snap. They will enter August practices with battles at the two outside linebacker spots — Will and Spur. T.J. Holloman and Cedrick Cooper are even at Will, while Sharrod Golightly is slightly ahead of Jordan Diggs at Spur.

Cornerback Victor Hampton is one of South Carolina's most talented players. And if he has a big 2013 season as a junior, he could cash in for NFL money, just as Stephon Gilmore did after the 2011 season. Hampton knows this, and he also knows he has to continue to demonstrate maturity, after off-field disciplinary issues pockmarked the early part of his career.

SPECIALISTS Sanders was a very good receiver, but an even better punt returner. He ranked fourth nationally last season with 15.3 yards per return and brought two back for touchdowns. So who takes his place? Hampton seems like the leading candidate, but the coaches want to cast a wide net in this search. Ellington is one of the country's most experienced kickoff returners. He returned 18 last season and 20 in 2011.

FINAL ANALYSIS With a game-changing player like Clowney, South Carolina has a chance for a special season. If Spurrier can manage the Shaw-Thompson rotation and get positive results from Davis, who certainly doesn't have to be the next Lattimore in his first year as a starter, then the Gamecocks' offense has a chance to be better than it was the past two seasons, when they leaned on their defense and the offense ranked No. 82 and 74 nationally in yards per game.

JADEVEON CLOWNEY

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"I like quarterback Connor Shaw. He's underrated. All he does is win. And he is fiercely tough."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Damiere Byrd (Jr.)	4	Shaq Roland (So.)
WR	23	**Bruce Ellington (Jr.)**	80	K.J. Brent (So.)
WR	3	Nick Jones (Jr.)	8	Shamier Jeffery (So.)
LT	53	**Corey Robinson (Jr.)**	76	Mike Matulis (Jr.)
LG	50	**A.J. Cann (Jr.)**	65	Brock Stadnik (Fr.)
C	51	Cody Waldrop (Fr.)	54	Clayton Stadnik (Fr.)
RG	67	**Ronald Patrick (Sr.)**	75	Will Sport (So.)
RT	71	**Brandon Shell (So.)**	78	Cody Gibson (Jr.)
TE	81	Rory Anderson (Jr.)	89	Jerell Adams (So.)
QB	14	**Connor Shaw (Sr.)**	17	Dylan Thompson (Jr.)
RB	28	Mike Davis (So.)	22	Brandon Wilds (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	7	**Jadeveon Clowney (Jr.)**	8	Darius English (Fr.)
DT	99	**Kelcy Quarles (Jr.)**	52	Phillip Dukes (So.)
DT	97	J.T. Surratt (Jr.)	92	Gerald Dixon Jr. (So.)
DE	90	Chaz Sutton (Sr.)	44	Gerald Dixon (So.)
OLB	18	Cedrick Cooper (So.)	11	T.J. Holloman (Fr.)
MLB	22	Kaiwan Lewis (So.)	11	T.J. Holloman (Fr.)
OLB	9	Sharrod Golightly (Jr.)	42	Jordan Diggs (Fr.)
CB	27	**Victor Hampton (Jr.)**	4	Ahmad Christian (So.)
CB	15	**Jimmy Legree (Sr.)**	10	Ronnie Martin (Jr.)
SS	12	**Brison Williams (Jr.)**	6	Chris Moody (Fr.)
FS	20	T.J. Gurley (So.)	25	Kadetrix Marcus (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Landon Ard (So.)	KR	23	Bruce Ellington (Jr.)
P	13	Tyler Hull (Jr.)	PR	27	Victor Hampton (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Connor Shaw, 228-154-1,956-7-17
Rushing: Connor Shaw, 131 att., 435 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Bruce Ellington, 40 rec., 600 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Jadeveon Clowney, 54
Sacks: Jadeveon Clowney, 13
Interceptions: Jimmy Legree, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST 46
SEC EAST PREDICTION 5

Tennessee VOLUNTEERS

A.J. JOHNSON

THE QUOTE

"I always respected what Cincinnati did under (Butch) Jones. They seemed to be a well-coached team."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	18	Jason Croom (Fr.)		MarQuez North (Fr.)
WR	19	Devrin Young (Jr.)	2	Alton Howard (So.)
WR	87	Jacob Carter (Jr.)	83	Cody Blanc (So.)
LT	74	**Antonio Richardson (Jr.)**	68	Marcus Jackson (Jr.)
LG	78	Alex Bullard (Sr.)	68	Marcus Jackson (Jr.)
C	64	**James Stone (Sr.)**	57	Mack Crowder (So.)
RG	72	**Zach Fulton (Sr.)**	77	Kyler Kerbyson (So.)
RT	70	**Ja'Wuan James (Sr.)**	66	Marques Pair (Jr.)
TE	85	Brendan Downs (Jr.)		Woody Quinn (Jr.)
QB	14	Justin Worley (Jr.)	12	Nathan Peterman (Fr.)
RB	20	Rajion Neal (Sr.)	15	**Marlin Lane (Jr.)**

DEFENSE (7)

DE	58	Marlon Walls (Sr.)	80	Corey Miller (Sr.)
DT	98	**Daniel McCullers (Sr.)**	96	Trevarris Saulsberry (So.)
DT	97	Daniel Hood (Sr.)	44	**Mo Couch (Sr.)**
DE	55	Jacques Smith (Sr.)	54	Jordan Williams (Jr.)
LB	41	Dontavis Sapp (Sr.)	17	Brent Brewer (Sr.)
LB	45	**A.J. Johnson (Jr.)**	52	Christian Harris (So.)
LB	56	**Curt Maggitt (Jr.)**	46	Channing Fugate (Sr.)
CB	27	**Justin Coleman (Jr.)**	35	Jaron Toney (Jr.)
CB	21	Riyahd Jones (Jr.)	9	Daniel Gray (So.)
S	3	**Byron Moore (Sr.)**	33	**LaDarrell McNeil (So.)**
S	37	Brian Randolph (So.)	34	Jalen Reeves-Maybin (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Michael Palardy (Sr.)	KR	19	Devrin Young (Jr.)
P	1	Michael Palardy (Sr.)	PR	19	Devrin Young (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Justin Worley, 23-15-134-2, 0 TDs
Rushing: Rajion Neal, 156 att., 708 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Marlin Lane, 29 rec., 228 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: A.J. Johnson, 138
Sacks: 3 players tied with 2
Interceptions: Byron Moore, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Can a line stocked with future NFL players — including All-America candidate Antonio Richardson — carry an offense by itself? The Vols are about to find out. The veteran line that helped mercurial quarterback Tyler Bray, elite receivers Cordarrelle Patterson and Justin Hunter and athletic tight end Mychal Rivera lead the second-most productive offense in the SEC is still here. Everybody else is gone.

The weaknesses are most glaring at receiver, where coaches will try out a group of a dozen scholarship players who have a combined one start at the position. The receiving corps is perhaps the least experienced, least talented group on the team — and the most likely to throw a wrench in Butch Jones' plans to run the up-tempo, pass-heavy offense he favored at Cincinnati.

The drops and sloppy routes have made it tough for Jones to fairly evaluate quarterbacks, but junior Justin Worley likely will win the job because he's taken Gen. Robert Neyland's first maxim of football to heart. It's a theme that Jones harps on constantly: "The team that makes the fewest mistakes will win." Worley is less mobile than redshirt freshman Nathan Peterman, but he threw fewer interceptions and made better decisions at the line of scrimmage in the spring.

21

Tennessee has lost 21 games over the last three seasons, the most in any three-year stretch in school history. Pre-Derek Dooley, the high was 17.

Veteran running backs Rajion Neal and Marlin Lane (if he's out of the doghouse) will try to build on a solid if unspectacular 2012 season by running through big holes created by the Vols' line.

DEFENSE The good news? After fielding one of the worst defenses in Tennessee history, the Vols have nowhere to go but up under new coordinator John Jancek. The bad news? If UT is going to improve on defense, they're going to have to do it with essentially the same cast of players — a group that, luckily, includes linebacker A.J. Johnson, who led the SEC in tackles last season.

Jones told Jancek to start from square one in the spring, building the new 4-3 defense block by block to make sure players understood even the simplest schemes. The biggest criticism of Sal Sunseri's failed 3-4 defense in 2012 was that players were confused and tentative. Speed and athleticism are still an issue, which is why Jancek will likely be more conservative, trying to eliminate the home run plays that the Vols allowed with alarming regularity.

The defense doesn't lack experience, including seven or eight veteran linemen who might be better than anyone gives them credit for. Coaches love fifth-year senior Daniel Hood, and they have pushed 360-pound tackle Daniel McCullers to be an every-down player, not just a run-stuffer. The secondary offers the biggest opportunity for growth, but it's also the biggest concern. The Vols will need improvement — and a full season of good health — from cornerback Justin Coleman and safety Brian Randolph.

SPECIALISTS Senior Michael Palardy has struggled with inconsistency throughout his career, but he has a chance to be the Vols' top punter, field goal kicker and kickoff specialist. Jones says the return game is a huge concern. He had an open casting call for punt returners in the spring. The only requirement: Catch the ball.

FINAL ANALYSIS Jones inherited a questionable roster and a brutal schedule, but his first year might also come with an unusual gift in the cutthroat SEC — very reasonable expectations from a win-starved fan base. If the Vols can pull off six wins and make a bowl, fans would be thrilled. (So would bowl executives, because ticket sales would be brisk.)

A large senior class that seems to have eagerly embraced the new coaching staff offers hope that this group can overachieve. And after three seasons in which every close SEC game seemed to go the other way, the Vols are due for some better luck.

Head Coach: Butch Jones
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 50-27 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bajakian
Defensive Coordinator: John Jancek
Knoxville, TN
Neyland Stadium (102,455)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (SEC)

August	
31	Austin Peay
September	
7	Western Kentucky
14	at Oregon
21	at Florida
28	South Alabama
October	
5	Georgia
19	South Carolina
26	at Alabama
November	
2	at Missouri
9	Auburn
23	Vanderbilt
30	at Kentucky

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 1-7)

Aug.	31	vs. NC State %		W	35–21
Sept.	8	Georgia State		W	51–13
Sept.	15	Florida		L	20–37
Sept.	22	Akron		W	47–26
Sept.	29	at Georgia		L	44–51
Oct.	13	at Mississippi State		L	31–41
Oct.	20	Alabama		L	13–44
Oct.	27	at South Carolina		L	35–38
Nov.	3	Troy		W	55–48
Nov.	10	Missouri	(ot)	L	48–51
Nov.	17	at Vanderbilt		L	18–41
Nov.	24	Kentucky		W	37–17

%Atlanta

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. MarQuez North, WR, Charlotte, NC
2. Joshua Dobbs, QB, Alpharetta, GA
3. Jason Carr, DE, Memphis, TN
4. Jalen Reeves-Maybin, S, Clarksville, TN
5. Ryan Jenkins, WR, Marietta, GA
6. Austin Sanders, T, Cleveland, TN
7. Riley Ferguson, QB, Matthews, NC
8. Paul Harris, WR, Accokeek, MD
9. Corey Vereen, DE, Winter Garden, FL
10. Lemond Johnson, DB, Cooper City, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	36.2 ppg	4	22
Rushing	160.3 ypg	8	61
Passing	315.6 ypg	2	15
Total	475.9 ypg	2	18
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	35.7 ppg	14	104
Rushing	188.8 ypg	13	85
Passing	282.5 ypg	13	111
Total	471.3 ypg	14	107
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-5	-0.42	12	88

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Vanderbilt COMMODORES

NATIONAL FORECAST **28**
SEC EAST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: James Franklin
Record at School: 15-11 (2 years)
Career Record: 15-11 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Donovan
Defensive Coordinator: Bob Shoop
Nashville, TN
Vanderbilt Stadium (40,550)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (SEC)

August	
29	Ole Miss
September	
7	Austin Peay
14	at South Carolina
21	at Massachusetts
28	UAB
October	
5	Missouri
19	Georgia
26	at Texas A&M
November	
9	at Florida
16	Kentucky
23	at Tennessee
30	Wake Forest

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Aug.	30	South Carolina	L	13-17
Sept.	8	at Northwestern	L	13-23
Sept.	15	Presbyterian	W	58-0
Sept.	22	at Georgia	L	3-48
Oct.	6	at Missouri	W	19-15
Oct.	13	Florida	L	17-31
Oct.	20	Auburn	W	17-13
Oct.	27	Massachusetts	W	49-7
Nov.	3	at Kentucky	W	40-0
Nov.	10	at Ole Miss	W	27-26
Nov.	17	Tennessee	W	41-18
Nov.	24	at Wake Forest	W	55-21
Dec.	31	vs. NC State #	W	38-24

#Music City Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Cunningham, WR, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
2. Johnny McCrary, QB, Decatur, GA
3. Jay Woods, DT, Jackson, GA
4. Zach Cunningham, LB, Pinson, AL
5. Brandon Vandenburg, Indio, CA*
6. Landon Stokes, LB, Orlando FL
7. Nigel Bowden, LB, Macon, GA
9. DeAndre Woods, WR, Clay, AL
9. Carlos Burse, WR, Alpharetta, GA
10. Mitch Parsons, TE, Parker, CO

* junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	30.0 ppg	7	55
Rushing	166.3 ypg	7	57
Passing	213.4 ypg	10	80
Total	379.7 ypg	8	80
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	18.7 ppg	5	15
Rushing	142.2 ypg	8	38
Passing	191.8 ypg	3	14
Total	333.9 ypg	5	19
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
0	0.00	8	58

OFFENSE It wasn't always the smoothest ride, but Jordan Rodgers will be remembered as one of the top quarterbacks in school history. Austyn Carta-Samuels, a two year-starter at Wyoming and the 2009 Mountain West Freshman of the Year, is the favorite to take over. Carta-Samuels is a dual-threat who threw for 3,655 yards and rushed for 758 in his two seasons at Wyoming. He started one game last year for Vanderbilt, throwing for 195 yards in an easy win over Presbyterian.

The Commodores will replace Zac Stacy, a two-time 1,000-yard rusher, with a three-man committee — senior Wesley Tate and sophomores Jerron Seymour and Brian Kimbrow. Tate emerged as a consistent No. 2 back last year after spending the 2011 season at wide receiver. Kimbrow was the Commodores' second-leading rusher as a true freshman, though more than half of his 413 yards came against Presbyterian and UMass. Seymour, the No. 2 back in 2011, redshirted last fall due in part to the depth at the position.

Vanderbilt boasts the SEC's best pair of starting wide receivers in Jordan Matthews and Chris Boyd. Matthews earned first-team all-conference honors as a junior after catching a league-best 94 passes for 1,323 yards and eight touchdowns. The tight end should be a bigger part of the passing attack in 2013.

No position group has progressed more during the course of the past two seasons than the offensive line. This year, however, this group has a chance to be a strength from the start. The headliner is senior tackle Wesley Johnson, who has not committed a holding penalty in his career despite starting every game over the past three seasons.

116.9

Dating back to the middle of the 2011 season, Jordan Matthews has averaged 116.9 yards in his last 12 SEC games.

DEFENSE The same six schools have ranked in the top six in the SEC in total defense in the last two seasons — Alabama, LSU, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and … Vanderbilt. That's right. After finishing last in the league in total defense in 2010, the Commodores climbed to sixth in 2011 and fifth in '12.

The Commodores feature three defensive ends — Walker May, Kyle Woestmann and Caleb Azubike — who could play for any team in the league, a statement that can't often be made with conviction. Depth at defensive tackle is an issue.

The linebacking corps was an area of significant concern heading into the 2012 season. It became a strength of the defense by the end of the year. Coordinator Bob Shoop gives a lot of the credit to one player. "The success of the Vanderbilt defense — and the team — went hand-in-hand with when Chase Garnham became comfortable at middle linebacker," he says.

Three starters return in the secondary, most notably senior cornerback Andre Hal, a second-team All-SEC pick in 2012.

SPECIALISTS One of the underrated aspects of Vanderbilt's breakthrough season was the play of the kicking specialists. Placekicker Carey Spear rebounded from a disappointing sophomore season to convert 20-of-24 as a junior, and punter Richard Kent was consistently strong all season long. Spear is back, but Kent must be replaced.

FINAL ANALYSIS James Franklin has accomplished something most thought was not possible: He's made Vanderbilt football relevant in the SEC. The Commodores went 9–4 overall and 5–3 in the SEC. The nine wins were the most since 1915, and the winning record in the league was the school's first since 1982. And there was nothing fluky about Vanderbilt's breakthrough season — the Dores ranked fifth in the league in total defense and a respectable eighth in total offense. While a few key players must be replaced on both sides of the ball, there is more than enough returning talent to take this program to a third straight bowl game.

JORDAN MATTHEWS

THE QUOTE

"James Franklin has done a great job. … But the next step is to become an elite SEC team, and I'm just not sure they have the personnel yet."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**87**	**Jordan Matthews (Sr.)**	9	Trent Pruitt (Jr.)
WR	**80**	**Chris Boyd (Jr.)**		Jordan Cunningham (Fr.)
WR	**17**	**Jonathan Krause (Sr.)**		Carlos Burse (Fr.)
LT	**67**	**Wesley Johnson (Sr.)**	66	Blake Fromang (Fr.)
LG	53	Jake Bernstein (So.)	74	Will Holden (Fr.)
C	**57**	**Joe Townsend (Jr.)**	77	Spencer Pulley (Jr.)
RG	77	Spencer Pulley (Jr.)	56	Barrett Gouger (Fr.)
RT	**52**	**Andrew Bridges (Jr.)**	50	Andrew Jelks (Fr.)
TE		Brandon Vandenburg (Jr.)	**81**	**Steven Scheu (So.)**
QB	6	Austyn Carta-Samuels (Sr.)	4	Patton Robinette (Fr.)
RB	24	Wesley Tate (Sr.)	3	Jerron Seymour (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	92	Kyle Woestmann (Jr.)	55	Caleb Azubike (So.)
DT	44	Barron Dixon (Jr.)	97	Jared Morse (Jr.)
DT	53	Vince Taylor (Jr.)	69	Adam Butler (Fr.)
DE	**90**	**Walker May (Sr.)**	54	Jimmy Stewart (So.)
OLB	35	Darreon Herring (So.)	42	Kellen Williams (So.)
MLB	**36**	**Chase Garnham (Sr.)**	13	Jake Sealand (So.)
OLB	**28**	**Karl Butler (Sr.)**	30	Larry Franklin (So.)
CB	**23**	**Andre Hal (Sr.)**	2	Brandon Banks (Fr.)
CB	12	Steven Clarke (Sr.)	21	Paris Head (Fr.)
SS	**31**	**Javon Marshall (Sr.)**	10	Cory Batey (Fr.)
FS	**1**	**Kenny Ladler (Sr.)**	32	Andrew Williamson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Carey Spear (Sr.)	**KR**	23	Andre Hal (Sr.)
P	16	Colby Cooke (Fr.)	**PR**	17	Jonathan Krause (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austyn Carta-Samuels, 25-14-208-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Brian Kimbrow, 66 att., 413 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Matthews, 94 rec., 1,323 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Kenny Ladler, 90
Sacks: Chase Garnham, 7
Interceptions: Andre Hal, 2; Kenny Ladler, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Ric Fogel

NATIONAL FORECAST 1

SEC WEST PREDICTION 1

Alabama

CRIMSON TIDE

AJ McCARRON

OFFENSE The AJ McCarron who quarterbacked Alabama to a second consecutive national championship in 2012 played with better restraint and an enhanced trust to do more in a Crimson Tide offense that aired it out with more frequency and less predictability. He heads an Alabama attack that is loaded with playmakers but features a bit of uncertainty on the offensive line.

At running back, it all starts with sophomore T.J. Yeldon, who has shown a veteran's savvy when surveying the field and a natural ability to catch passes out of the backfield. Finding the No. 2 and 3 behind him could be an August project.

The Crimson Tide need to replace three starters on the offensive line. Sophomore Ryan Kelly will likely take command at center, but the competition at left guard and right tackle is far from over. Junior Arie Kouandjio, the older brother of starting left tackle Cyrus Kouandjio, is among the frontrunners at left guard. Junior Austin Shepherd shares a similar distinction in the battle to replace D.J. Fluker and line up next to returning right guard Anthony Steen.

Amari Cooper, who broke most of Julio Jones' freshman records last season, leads a receiving corps that returns every significant player from 2012 to go along with three players — Kenny Bell, DeAndrew White and Chris Black — returning from significant injuries.

5

Alabama has lost only one game by more than five points dating back to the start of the 2009 season — a 35–21 loss at South Carolina in 2010.

DEFENSE The losses of nose guard Jesse Williams and defensive ends Damion Square and Quinton Dial might seem like a big-time blow, but there shouldn't be much of a drop-off if players such as Jeoffrey Pagan, Brandon Ivory and LaMichael Fanning do what their predecessors did and step up their game now that their time has arrived. Senior Ed Stinson is the "old man" of a group that will hope to establish a more consistent pass rush in 2013.

C.J. Mosley passed on the NFL and returns to lead a linebacking corps that loses just one significant contributor (Nico Johnson) from 2012. Replacing Johnson might just mean more snaps for Mosley, who earned team MVP honors in 2012 despite starting just 10 games. Junior Adrian Hubbard is the biggest threat to bring down the quarterback.

Alabama's secondary will be a mix of reliable veterans and promising youngsters. Cornerback Deion Belue and safeties Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and Vinnie Sunseri provide the veteran experience, while sophomores Geno Smith and Landon Collins look to fill the roles vacated by cornerback Dee Milliner and safety Robert Lester.

SPECIALISTS It remains to be seen whether Alabama will continue to go with a two-man kicking tandem now that Jeremy Shelley is gone. Cade Foster has handled kickoffs and long field goal attempts for the past few years, and he showed great improvement in both during his junior season. Redshirt freshman Adam Griffith came to Alabama in 2012 as one of the nation's top-rated kickers, but he's yet to attempt a meaningful kick. Punter Cody Mandell proved to be one of the SEC's most reliable legs in 2012.

FINAL ANALYSIS As historic and rare as it would be, the Crimson Tide will certainly be among the favorites to win it all in 2013 and deliver its fourth BCS National Championship in five years. Though questions remain on the offensive line, Alabama should have enough firepower at the skill positions to expect a more prolific attack in 2013. The defense, which features a few new faces sprinkled throughout the unit, should still be one of the best in the nation. Ultimately, if the Crimson Tide can get past Texas A&M on Sept. 14, the schedule sets up to be smooth sailing all the way to the SEC Championship Game and, just maybe, the BCS title game.

THE QUOTE

"It comes down to that defensive line and whether they can improve against quarterbacks that can beat you with their feet."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	**Amari Cooper (So.)**	2	DeAndrew White (Jr.)
WR	83	**Kevin Norwood (Sr.)**	7	Kenny Bell (Sr.)
WR	5	Chris Black (Fr.)	22	**Christion Jones (Jr.)**
LT	71	**Cyrus Kouandjio (Jr.)**	58	Brandon Greene (Fr.)
LG	77	Arie Kouandjio (Jr.)	63	Kellen Williams (Sr.)
C	70	Ryan Kelly (So.)	78	Chad Lindsay (Jr.)
RG	61	**Anthony Steen (Sr.)**	68	Isaac Luatua (So.)
RT	79	Austin Shepherd (Jr.)	72	Leon Brown (Jr.)
TE	84	Brian Vogler (Jr.)	88	OJ Howard (Fr.)
QB	10	**AJ McCarron (Sr.)**	6	Blake Sims (Jr.)
RB	4	T.J. Yeldon (So.)	17	Kenyan Drake (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	49	**Ed Stinson (Sr.)**	44	LaMichael Fanning (So.)
NG	99	Brandon Ivory (Jr.)	95	Darren Lake (So.)
DE	8	Jeoffrey Pagan (Jr.)	54	Dalvin Tomlinson (Fr.)
OLB	42	**Adrian Hubbard (Jr.)**	7	Ryan Anderson (Fr.)
ILB	32	**C.J. Mosley (Sr.)**		Reuben Foster (Fr.)
ILB	33	**Trey DePriest (Jr.)**	18	Reggie Ragland (So.)
OLB	47	**Xzavier Dickson (Jr.)**	30	Denzel Devall (So.)
CB	13	**Deion Belue (Sr.)**	5	Cyrus Jones (So.)
CB	24	Geno Smith (So.)	16	Bradley Sylve (So.)
S	6	**Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (Jr.)**	3	**Vinnie Sunseri (Jr.)**
S	26	Landon Collins (So.)	20	Jarrick Williams (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Cade Foster (Sr.)	KR	22	Christion Jones (Jr.)
P	29	Cody Mandell (Sr.)	PR	1	Dee Hart (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: AJ McCarron, 314-211-2,933-3 30 TDs

Rushing: T.J. Yeldon, 175 att., 1,108 yds., 12 TDs

Receiving: Amari Cooper, 59 rec., 1,000 yds., 11 TDs

Tackles: C.J. Mosley, 107

Sacks: Adrian Hubbard, 7

Interceptions: Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Head Coach: Nick Saban
Record at School: 68-13 (6 years)
Career Record: 159-55-1 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Nussmeier
Defensive Coordinator: Kirby Smart
Tuscaloosa, AL
Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 13-0, 8-0 (SEC)

August		
31	vs. Virginia Tech #	
September		
14	at Texas A&M	
21	Colorado State	
28	Ole Miss	
October		
5	Georgia State	
12	at Kentucky	
19	Arkansas	
26	Tennessee	
November		
9	LSU	
16	at Mississippi State	
23	Chattanooga	
30	at Auburn	

#Atlanta, GA

2012 RESULTS (13-1, 7-1)

Sept.	1	vs. Michigan %	W	41–14
Sept.	8	Western Kentucky	W	35–0
Sept.	15	at Arkansas	W	52–0
Sept.	22	Florida Atlantic	W	40–7
Sept.	29	Ole Miss	W	33–14
Oct.	13	at Missouri	W	42–10
Oct.	20	at Tennessee	W	44–13
Oct.	27	Mississippi State	W	38–7
Nov.	3	at LSU	W	21–17
Nov.	10	Texas A&M	L	24–29
Nov.	17	Western Carolina	W	49–0
Nov.	24	Auburn	W	49–0
Dec.	1	vs. Georgia &	W	32–28
Jan.	7	vs. Notre Dame #	W	42–14

%Arlington &Atlanta #BCS National Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Reuben Foster, LB, Auburn, AL
2. Derrick Henry, RB, Yulee, FL
3. Jonathan Allen, LB, Ashburn, VA
4. OJ Howard, TE, Prattville, AL
5. Robert Foster, WR, Monaca, PA
6. A'Shawn Robinson, DT, Fort Worth, TX
7. Alvin Kamara, RB, Norcross, GA
8. Dee Liner, DL, Muscle Shoals, AL
9. Altee Tenpenny, RB, North Little Rock, AR
10. Grant Hill, OL, Huntsville, AL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	38.7 ppg	2	12
Rushing	227.5 ypg	2	16
Passing	218.0 ypg	8	75
Total	445.5 ypg	4	31
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	10.9 ppg	1	1
Rushing	76.4 ypg	1	1
Passing	173.6 ypg	1	7
Total	250.0 ypg	1	1
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+14	+1.00	4	13

Arkansas RAZORBACKS

NATIONAL FORECAST 49
SEC WEST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Bret Bielema
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 68-24 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jim Chaney
Defensive Coordinator: Chris Ash
Fayetteville, AR
Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 1-7 (SEC)

August		
31	UL Lafayette	
September		
7	vs. Samford #	
14	Southern Miss	
21	at Rutgers	
28	Texas A&M	
October		
5	at Florida	
12	South Carolina	
19	at Alabama	
November		
2	Auburn	
9	at Ole Miss	
23	vs. Mississippi State #	
30	at LSU	

#Little Rock, AR

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Sept.	1	Jacksonville State	W	49-24
Sept.	8	vs. ULM %	(ot) L	31-34
Sept.	15	Alabama	L	0-52
Sept.	22	Rutgers	L	26-35
Sept.	29	at Texas A&M	L	10-58
Oct.	6	at Auburn	W	24-7
Oct.	13	Kentucky	W	49-7
Oct.	27	vs. Ole Miss %	L	27-30
Nov.	3	Tulsa	W	19-15
Nov.	10	at South Carolina	L	20-38
Nov.	17	at Mississippi State	L	14-45
Nov.	23	LSU	L	13-20

%Little Rock

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Alex Collins, RB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
2. Hunter Henry, TE, Little Rock, AR
3. Denver Kirkland, OL, Miami, FL
4. Martrell Spaight, LB, North Little Rock, AR*
5. Reeve Koehler, OL, Honolulu, HI
6. Austin Allen, QB, Fayetteville, AR
7. Carroll Washington, CB, Baltimore, MD*
8. Tiquention Coleman, S, Mauldin, SC*
9. Dan Skipper, OL, Arvada, CO
10. Brooks Ellis, LB, Fayetteville, AL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	23.5 ppg	12	89
Rushing	118.7 ypg	14	104
Passing	301.5 ypg	3	21
Total	420.2 ypg	6	49
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	30.4 ppg	12	81
Rushing	124.1 ypg	5	19
Passing	285.8 ypg	14	113
Total	409.9 ypg	12	73
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-19	-1.58	14	118

OFFENSE Arkansas' drastic personality change has begun. The retrofit to a beefier, drive-blocking unit preferred by new coach Bret Bielema took infant steps in the spring, and the Razorbacks hope to be in position to play what Bielema calls "big-boy football" in the fall.

It won't be easy for a team that lost key personnel — most notably quarterback Tyler Wilson and wide receiver Cobi Hamilton — from what had been a pass-heavy system. Two areas where the Hogs expect immediate improvement are penalties and turnover margin — Arkansas tied for 118th nationally (minus-19) last year.

Sophomore Brandon Allen exited spring drills with an edge for the quarterback job over senior Brandon Mitchell, who spent almost all of 2012 at receiver.

Jonathan Williams looks to assume the lead tailback role, but support is needed and expected from big back Kody Walker, swift Nate Holmes and signee Alex Collins. Bruising fullback Kiero Small has outstanding lead-blocking credentials and can also play tailback.

Seniors Javontee Herndon, Julian Horton and Demetrius Wilson and sophomore Mekale McKay project as the top pass-catchers for new offensive coordinator Jim Chaney.

Senior Travis Swanson is back at center, a huge asset for the evolving offensive line, but the rest of the unit is a work in progress. Former walk-on David Hurd could start again at left tackle, joining guards Brey Cook and Mitch Smothers, tackle Grady Ollison and Swanson in the starting lineup. The Hogs signed a quality group of offensive linemen, led by Denver Kirkland.

31

Arkansas committed 31 turnovers in 2012 to tie for 111th in the nation in that category. The Hogs tied for 118th in turnover margin (minus-1.58 per game).

DEFENSE Arkansas was perpetually understaffed on defense the last several seasons, so a rebuild isn't likely to happen overnight. However, a significant improvement could be in the works for a unit that ranked 73rd nationally in 2012 (409.9 ypg), mainly because the defensive front is loaded with veterans who have already produced in the SEC.

Tackles Byran Jones and Robert Thomas and ends Chris Smith and Trey Flowers all have quality starting experience, giving Arkansas a chance to drum up quarterback pressure with a four-man rush.

A.J. Turner and Otha Peters, two of the veteran linebackers, were slowed by injuries in the spring. Senior Jarrett Lake caught linebacker position coach Randy Shannon's eye and could be a leader on a unit that lacks experience. Myke Tavarres, a junior college signee who enrolled in school in January, is an impressive athlete.

Four starters return in the secondary — safeties Eric Bennett and Rohan Gaines, the leading returning tackler with 75, and corners Tevin Mitchel and Will Hines. The Razorbacks must get better on the back end, however, and junior college transfers Carroll Washington and Tiquention Coleman should help.

SPECIALISTS Zach Hocker is back for his senior year after a down season in which he made only 11-of-18 field goals. Hocker, also an ace kickoff specialist, might add punting duties to his résumé as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Razorbacks have question marks in too many areas to be considered a contender. Having three head coaches in an eight-month span in the aftermath of the Bobby Petrino scandal has seemingly sidetracked a program that passed its way into the top 10 for a couple of seasons. Expecting a well-oiled transition to a stronger drive-blocking running game would be unreasonable. In a best-case scenario, quality blockers emerge across the board, quarterback play is efficient, the running game is unleashed and playmakers rise up on all three levels on defense. Even if several of those scenarios take place, the Razorbacks have a long trip back to SEC West contention.

CHRIS SMITH

THE QUOTE

"They are going to be terrible. What they are doing now, it's the product of bad recruiting. They have a long way to go."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	19	Javontee Herndon (Sr.)	2	Julian Horton (Sr.)
WR	81	Demetrius Wilson (Sr.)	**82**	**Mekale McKay (So.)**
LT	**69**	**David Hurd (Sr.)**		Dan Skipper (Fr.)
LG	74	Brey Cook (Jr.)		Denver Kirkland (Fr.)
C	**64**	**Travis Swanson (Sr.)**	75	Luke Charpentier (Jr.)
RG	65	Mitch Smothers (So.)		Reeve Koehler (Fr.)
RT	50	Grady Ollison (So.)	68	Austin Beck (So.)
TE	89	Mitchell Lowen (So.)	87	Austin Tate (Sr.)
QB	10	Brandon Allen (So.)	17	Brandon Mitchell (Sr.)
FB	36	Kiero Small (Sr.)	33	Patrick Arinze (Jr.)
TB	32	Jonathan Williams (So.)		Alex Collins (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**42**	**Chris Smith (Sr.)**	6	JaMichael Winston (Fr.)
DT	**54**	**Byran Jones (Sr.)**	93	DeMarcus Hodge (So.)
DT	98	Robert Thomas (Sr.)	91	Darius Philon (Fr.)
DE	**86**	**Trey Flowers (Jr.)**	48	Deatrich Wise Jr. (So.)
OLB	39	Jarrett Lake (Sr.)	5	Otha Peters (So.)
MLB	24	Daunte Carr (Jr.)	44	Robert Atiga (Sr.)
OLB	34	Braylon Mitchell (Jr.)	52	Austin Jones (Sr.)
CB	**8**	**Tevin Mitchel (Jr.)**	21	Carroll Washington (Jr.)
CB	**9**	**Will Hines (So.)**	29	Jared Collins (Fr.)
SS	**26**	**Rohan Gaines (So.)**	7	Tiquention Coleman (Jr.)
FS	**14**	**Eric Bennett (Sr.)**	27	Alan Turner (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Zach Hocker (Sr.)	KR	22	Nate Holmes (So.)
P	18	Zach Hocker (Sr.)	PR	22	Nate Holmes (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Allen, 49-21-186-3, 1 TD
Rushing: Jonathan Williams, 45 att., 231 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Mekale McKay, 21 rec., 317 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Rohan Gaines, 75
Sacks: Chris Smith, 9.5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

NATIONAL FORECAST **42**

SEC WEST PREDICTION **6**

Auburn TIGERS

TRE MASON

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"They've had a mess of distractions this offseason and probably just want to get back to football."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	89	Jaylon Denson (Jr.)	6	Ricardo Louis (So.)
WR	4	Quan Bray (Jr.)	18	Sammie Coates (So.)
WR	1	Trovon Reed (Jr.)	39	B.J. Trimble (So.)
LT	73	Greg Robinson (So.)	72	Shon Coleman (Fr.)
LG	63	Alex Kozan (Fr.)	76	Jordan Diamond (Fr.)
C	50	Reese Dismukes (Jr.)	65	Tunde Fariyike (Jr.)
RG	62	Chad Slade (Jr.)	53	Devonte Danzey (So.)
RT	51	Patrick Miller (So.)	77	Shane Callahan (Fr.)
TE	81	C.J. Uzomah (Jr.)	11	Brandon Fulse (Jr.)
QB	10	Kiehl Frazier (Jr.)	12	Jonathan Wallace (So.)
RB	21	Tre Mason (Jr.)	44	Cameron Artis-Payne (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	95	Dee Ford (Sr.)	13	Craig Sanders (Sr.)
DT	54	Jeffrey Whitaker (Sr.)	98	Angelo Blackson (Jr.)
DT	90	Gabe Wright (Jr.)	50	Ben Bradley (So.)
DE	94	Nosa Eguae (Sr.)	92	Kenneth Carter (Sr.)
LB	5	Jake Holland (Sr.)	17	Kris Frost (So.)
LB	30	Cassanova McKinzy (So.)	10	LaDarius Owens (Jr.)
STAR	26	Justin Garrett (Jr.)	27	Robenson Therezie (Jr.)
CB	21	Jonathon Mincy (Jr.)	15	Josh Holsey (So.)
CB	11	Chris Davis (Sr.)	3	Jonathan Jones (So.)
SS	9	Jermaine Whitehead (Jr.)	19	Ryan White (Sr.)
FS	12	Demetruce McNeal (Sr.)	31	Trent Fisher (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Cody Parkey (Sr.)	KR	1	Trovon Reed (Jr.)
P	30	Steven Clark (Sr.)	PR	4	Quan Bray (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kiehl Frazier, 116-62-753-8, 2 TDs

Rushing: Tre Mason, 171 att., 1,002 yds., 8 TDs

Receiving: Quan Bray, 14 rec., 94 yds., 0 TDs

Tackles: Demetruce McNeal, 90

Sacks: Dee Ford, 6

Interceptions: Trent Fisher, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Auburn's offense can't possibly be worse than it was last year, can it? Gus Malzahn's return gives Auburn an identity to hang onto, something the Tigers sorely lacked in 2012. Kiehl Frazier, who was heavily recruited by Malzahn before the coach's departure for Arkansas State, and Jonathan Wallace are battling for the quarterback spot. Frazier must play with more confidence and make better decisions after a two-touchdown, eight-interception season. Wallace may not be the most talented player, but he showed poise last year. Junior college signee Nick Marshall could factor into the picture, too. He ran for more than 1,000 yards last season but also threw 20 interceptions.

Tre Mason rushed for 1,000 yards despite too often being an afterthought in Auburn's gameplan. He has been a solid, although not spectacular, runner who could be very productive. Auburn needs to reestablish the running game under Malzahn to take pressure off its passing game. Cameron Artis-Payne, a 210-pound running back who ran for more than 2,000 yards at Allan Hancock (Calif.) College, opened eyes this spring and will complement Mason. Malzahn loves playing multiple running backs who provide different looks.

83,401

Auburn shattered its spring game attendance record with a crowd of 83,401. The day saw the final rolling of the Toomer's Corner oaks.

Auburn's top returning pass-catcher based on receptions is Quan Bray, with 14. All of the Tigers' returning receivers combined for 54 catches in 2012. Bray, Trovon Reed, Sammie Coates and Jaylon Denson must help improve a lackluster passing game that averaged 156.6 yards through the air in 2012 (112th in the country).

The offensive linemen must be in better shape to play in Malzahn's hurry-up offense. Four starters are back from a unit that allowed 37 sacks last year, which ranked 109th in the country.

DEFENSE Any improvement on Auburn's defense under new coordinator Ellis Johnson starts with the defensive line. "Potential" has been the buzzword around this unit for the past two years, but with limited production. Auburn could have used Corey Lemonier, but the defensive end left school early for the NFL Draft.

The linebacker position at Auburn was once a special spot featuring big, fast and talented future NFL players. Under Gene Chizik, linebacker turned into too many missed tackles and missed alignments. Johnson needs only two linebackers in his 4-2-5 scheme, and safety hybrid Justin Garrett opened some eyes in the spring.

All four of Auburn's top cornerbacks and its starting safeties return. Then again, this was a secondary that had only one interception last season — a pick by reserve Trent Fisher against Alabama A&M. With games this season against Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel, Georgia's Aaron Murray and Alabama's AJ McCarron, Auburn's secondary will have to play better for the defense to improve.

SPECIALISTS Auburn's 2012 season was so miserable that even its punter, Steven Clark, averaged a yard less on his punts. Cody Parkey returns as a solid kicker who didn't get many chances last year. Gone is elite kickoff return specialist Onterio McCalebb; he'll be replaced by Reed and Bray.

FINAL ANALYSIS There is talent at Auburn, which has signed many highly rated classes in recent years. The most telling factor of Malzahn's tenure will be whether he can coach up and retain that talent, two areas where Chizik failed before his firing.

Most likely, Malzahn's first year will see too many SEC teams that are more talented and have more depth than Auburn at too many positions. The Tigers do play in the SEC West, after all. But expect Malzahn and his offense to have some fun along the way. Auburn will beat someone it shouldn't because of Malzahn's fast-paced offense.

Head Coach: Gus Malzahn
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 9-3 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Rhett Lashlee
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Ellis Johnson, Charlie Harbison
Auburn, AL
Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 2-6 (SEC)

August	
31	Washington State
September	
7	Arkansas State
14	Mississippi State
21	at LSU
October	
5	Ole Miss
12	Western Carolina
19	at Texas A&M
26	Florida Atlantic
November	
2	at Arkansas
9	at Tennessee
16	Georgia
30	Alabama

2012 RESULTS (3-9, 0-8)

Sept.	1	vs. Clemson %		L	19-26
Sept.	8	at Mississippi State		L	10-28
Sept.	15	ULM	(ot)	W	31-28
Sept.	22	LSU		L	10-12
Oct.	6	Arkansas		L	7-24
Oct.	13	at Ole Miss		L	20-41
Oct.	20	at Vanderbilt		L	13-17
Oct.	27	Texas A&M		L	21-63
Nov.	3	New Mexico State		W	42-7
Nov.	10	Georgia		L	0-38
Nov.	17	Alabama A&M		W	51-7
Nov.	24	at Alabama		L	0-49

%Atlanta

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Montravius Adams, DT, Vienna, GA
2. Carl Lawson, DE, Alpharetta, GA
3. Elijah Daniel, DE, Avon, IN
4. Jeremy Johnson, QB, Montgomery, AL
5. Tony Stevens, WR, Orlando, FL
6. Jason Smith, QB, Mobile, AL
7. Earnest Robinson, WR, Pinson, AL
8. Cameron Artis-Payne, RB, Harrisburg, PA*
9. Ben Bradley, DT, Norcross, GA*
10. Johnathan Ford, RB, New Hope, AL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	18.7 ppg	13	112
Rushing	148.4 ypg	9	78
Passing	156.6 ypg	13	112
Total	305.0 ypg	14	115
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	28.3 ppg	10	66
Rushing	197.6 ypg	14	97
Passing	222.9 ypg	8	47
Total	420.5 ypg	13	79
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-12	-1.00	13	106

LSU TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 12
SEC WEST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Les Miles
Record at School: 85-21 (8 years)
Career Record: 113-42 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Cam Cameron
Defensive Coordinator: John Chavis
Baton Rouge, LA
Tiger Stadium (92,542)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 (SEC)

August		
31	vs. TCU #	
September		
7	UAB	
14	Kent State	
21	Auburn	
28	at Georgia	
October		
5	at Mississippi State	
12	Florida	
19	at Ole Miss	
26	Furman	
November		
9	at Alabama	
23	Texas A&M	
30	Arkansas	

#Arlington, TX

2012 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Sept.	1	North Texas	W	41-14
Sept.	8	Washington	W	41-3
Sept.	15	Idaho	W	63-14
Sept.	22	at Auburn	W	12-10
Sept.	29	Towson	W	38-22
Oct.	6	at Florida	L	6-14
Oct.	13	South Carolina	W	23-21
Oct.	20	at Texas A&M	W	24-19
Nov.	3	Alabama	L	17-21
Nov.	10	Mississippi State	W	37-17
Nov.	17	Ole Miss	W	41-35
Nov.	23	at Arkansas	W	20-13
Dec.	31	vs. Clemson #	L	24-25

#Chick-fil-A Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tre'Davious White, DB, Shreveport, LA
2. Ethan Pocic, OL, Lemont, IL LSU
3. Frank Herron, DL, Memphis, TN
4. Greg Gilmore, DL, Hope Mills, NC
5. Kendell Beckwith, LB, Jackson, LA
6. DeSean Smith, TE, Lake Charles, LA
7. Jeryl Brazil, ATH, Loranger, LA
8. Hayden Rettig, QB, Los Angeles, CA
9. Josh Boutte, OL, New Iberia, LA
10. Rashard Robinson, DB, Pompano Beach, FL

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	29.8 ppg	8	58
Rushing	173.7 ypg	6	50
Passing	200.5 ypg	11	92
Total	374.2 ypg	10	85
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	17.5 ppg	3	12
Rushing	101.6 ypg	3	9
Passing	206.0 ypg	6	28
Total	307.6 ypg	3	8
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+16	+1.23	1	5

OFFENSE Zach Mettenberger is back for his second year as a starter after a junior season that was ushered in with huge expectations — perhaps too big — and wavered between disappointing, mediocre and effective. He wound up with 2,609 passing yards, but only 12 touchdowns against seven interceptions. New offensive coordinator Cam Cameron has a reputation as a strong tutor of quarterbacks, and he could be a huge influence on Mettenberger in a season in which LSU needs its quarterback to be productive.

In the backfield, Jeremy Hill exploded as a go-to back midway through his freshman campaign and led the Tigers with 755 rushing yards. His status, however, is in doubt after he was arrested in late April after allegedly punching a man outside of a bar. If Hill is not available, LSU, as usual, has other quality options in the backfield. Alfred Blue and Kenny Hilliard both spent time as the lead back last season.

Receivers Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry were special at times in 2012, but way too ordinary at others. They need to limit their drops and improve their route-running. Junior college transfer Quantavius Leslie could give LSU a home run threat.

The Tigers go into the season with four veterans up front, augmented by a host of promising newcomers. The one major hole is at center, where Elliott Porter takes over for three-year starter P.J. Lonergan. The right side seems fairly locked down, with Trai Turner and Vadal Alexander back at guard and tackle, respectively.

13

In three LSU losses last season, quarterback Zach Mettenberger was sacked 13 times. In the 10 wins, he was sacked 19 times.

DEFENSE The rebuilding of the defense begins up front, although this isn't exactly a starting-from-scratch project. In fact, the experienced players back — Jermauria Rasco, Anthony Johnson, Ego Ferguson and Danielle Hunter — may be more athletic and potentially more explosive in terms of generating a pass rush than the recently departed group.

No player was more valuable to the LSU defense in 2012 than departed linebacker Kevin Minter, who more or less took away the middle of the field. A talented six-man 2012 linebacker recruiting class helps fill the gaps along with one of the state's best prep players, Kendell Beckwith. Senior Lamin Barrow should also be an anchor after he played a strong second fiddle to Minter with 104 tackles.

There will be some new faces in some prominent roles in the secondary. Cornerbacks Jalen Mills and Jalen Collins were forced into action as true freshmen last fall and showed flashes of a bright future. But both also have to get better across the board for the secondary to improve after a late-season fade cost the Tigers wins against Alabama and Clemson. The safety spots seem to be in good hands, with senior Craig Loston — if he can stay healthy — and junior Ronald Martin.

SPECIALISTS Yes, LSU even got stung by early departures in the kicking department when wacky but talented punter Brad Wing left for the NFL. But another strong-legged Australian, Jamie Keehn, showed his value in the bowl game when he averaged 44.6 yards per kick. The placekicking spot is up for grabs between junior James Hairston, who has kicked off the last few seasons, and walk-on Colby Delahoussaye.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Tigers were hit hard by early departures to the NFL, leaving only 10 starters returning in 2013. The cupboard isn't bare for Les Miles, but the Tigers are behind Alabama and Texas A&M in the SEC West pecking order. LSU won't abandon its run-first approach on offense, but Cameron, the new coordinator, is tasked with getting more production from Mettenberger. The defense has plenty of young talent and will get better as the season progresses. However, there will be an adjustment period with the departure of six key linemen, an All-SEC linebacker and two starters in the secondary.

ODELL BECKHAM JR.

Chris Covatta

THE QUOTE

"They lost a lot of players. I just don't think they are going to be the same. In my opinion, there's a slow, steady decline of that program."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**3**	**Odell Beckham Jr. (Jr.)**	**86**	**Kadron Boone (Sr.)**
WR	80	Jarvis Landry (Jr.)	82	James Wright (Sr.)
LT	**70**	**La'el Collins (Jr.)**	65	Jerald Hawkins (Fr.)
LG	74	Josh Williford (Sr.)	69	Fehoko Fanaika (Jr.)
C	55	Elliott Porter (Jr.)	77	Ethan Pocic (Fr.)
RG	**56**	**Trai Turner (So.)**	75	Evan Washington (Jr.)
RT	**78**	**Vadal Alexander (So.)**	66	Derek Edinburgh Jr. (Fr.)
TE	84	Logan Stokes (Jr.)	85	Dillon Gordon (So.)
QB	**8**	**Zach Mettenberger (Sr.)**	17	Stephen Rivers (So.)
FB	**44**	**J.C. Copeland (Sr.)**	27	Kenny Hilliard (Jr.)
TB	4	Alfred Blue (Sr.)	27	Kenny Hilliard (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	59	Jermauria Rasco (Jr.)	98	Jordan Allen (Jr.)
DT	90	Anthony Johnson (Jr.)		Greg Gilmore (Fr.)
DT	9	Ego Ferguson (Jr.)	91	Christian LaCouture (Fr.)
DE	94	Danielle Hunter (So.)		Tashawn Bower (Fr.)
LB	25	Kwon Alexander (So.)	58	Tahj Jones (Sr.)
LB	**57**	**Lamin Barrow (Sr.)**	22	Ronnie Feist (So.)
LB		Kendell Beckwith (Fr.)	23	Lamar Louis (So.)
CB	32	Jalen Collins (So.)		Jeryl Brazil (Fr.)
CB	**28**	**Jalen Mills (So.)**		Tre'Davious White (Fr.)
SS	**6**	**Craig Loston (Sr.)**	34	Micah Eugene (So.)
FS	26	Ronald Martin (Jr.)	12	Corey Thompson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	James Hairston (Jr.)	**KR**		Jeryl Brazil (Fr.)
P	38	Jamie Keehn (So.)	**PR**	3	Odell Beckham Jr. (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zach Mettenberger, 352-207-2,609-7 12 TDs
Rushing: Jeremy Hill, 142 att., 755 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Jarvis Landry, 56 rec., 573 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Lamin Barrow, 104
Sacks: Micah Eugene, 3.5
Interceptions: Craig Loston, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST **33**

SEC WEST PREDICTION **4**

Ole Miss

REBELS

BO WALLACE

OFFENSE Eight starters return from a unit that made big gains in the first season of the up-tempo spread of new coach Hugh Freeze. The Rebels' highest statistical ranking in 2011 was No. 83 in rushing offense. They were a top-50 squad in every category in 2012, including No. 47 in scoring at 31.5 points per game.

Quarterback Bo Wallace — a first-year junior college transfer a year ago — passed for 2,994 yards and 22 touchdowns and was the team's second-leading rusher with 390 yards and a team-high eight rushing touchdowns. Another spring to develop chemistry with receivers might have helped him reduce his 17 interceptions, but offseason shoulder surgery prevented that. Ole Miss is confident he'll be full-go in August.

Running back Jeff Scott thrived as well, rushing for 846 yards and six scores. He was also very active in the passing game. Sophomores Jaylen Walton and I'Tavius Mathers played well in the bowl game when Scott was injured. And they may not be the best young backs on the roster. Freshman Mark Dodson, an early enrollee from Memphis, was impressive in the spring.

99

Ole Miss jumped 99 spots nationally in sacks recorded, improving from 110th in 2011 (1.08 per game) to 11th in '12 (2.92 per game).

Wide receiver Donte Moncrief had 10 touchdown catches and is one of three returning regulars, along with Ja-Mes Logan and Vince Sanders. Freshman Laquon Treadwell, the nation's top recruit at the position, should figure into the rotation as well.

Starting tackles Emmanuel McCray and Pierce Burton are back. It's possible one could move inside if incoming freshman Laremy Tunsil, another of the Rebels' elite recruits, works his way onto the field.

DEFENSE Defensive end Robert Nkemdiche, the nation's No. 1 recruit, should help provide a pass rush off the edge. But a lesser-known signee, junior college transfer Lavon Hooks, arrives at tackle, a position of greater need.

Denzel Nkemdiche, Robert's brother, was the Rebels' top defensive playmaker last year and is back to man one of the two linebacker spots Ole Miss' 4-2-5 scheme. Senior Mike Marry is a big hitter, albeit a step slower than Nkemdiche. The wild card at linebacker is D.T. Shackelford, a former rising star who tore up his knee in the spring of 2011. He's back, but his return to form is far from a sure thing.

Nick Brassell was a two-way player on a bad Ole Miss team as a freshman in 2011. Grades forced him to leave school and play at a junior college in 2012. If he is eligible this fall, it will be a big lift to the secondary. Freeze has already identified Brassell as an "NFL corner." Senior Charles Sawyer and athletic junior Senquez Golson bring experience to the secondary.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Andrew Ritter and punter Tyler Campbell, who led the nation as a sophomore in 2010 with a 46.4-yard average, both redshirted last year as fourth-year seniors. Ritter served as the kickoff specialist in his first three seasons but has yet to attempt a field goal or extra point. The Rebels struggled at times covering kicks, and it was costly — they gave up an 89-yard punt return touchdown in a six-point loss at LSU. The signing class could add depth on special teams and require regular starters to play less.

FINAL ANALYSIS Wallace can be a star if he cuts down on his interceptions. The Rebels need him to do that to be successful on the road early — they play at Vanderbilt, Texas, Alabama and Auburn — so that they're not forced to climb uphill in the standings in a late string of home games.

Ole Miss exceeded expectations last year largely because it stayed relatively healthy. A similar dose of good fortune would be helpful again. The starters are talented, but the Rebels do not have quality depth across the board.

THE QUOTE

"They have a lot of tricks up their sleeve. They always get guys open. They put you in tough situations."

—An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**12**	**Donte Moncrief (Jr.)**	88	Cody Core (So.)
WR	85	Ja-Mes Logan (Sr.)	28	Korvic Neat (Sr.)
WR	**10**	**Vince Sanders (Jr.)**		Laquon Treadwell (Fr.)
LT	**70**	**Emmanuel McCray (Sr.)**		Laremy Tunsil (Fr.)
LG	**72**	**Aaron Morris (Jr.)**	68	Justin Bell (So.)
C	**56**	**Evan Swindall (Sr.)**	54	Austin Douglas (Jr.)
RG	77	Patrick Junen (Sr.)	74	Jared Duke (Sr.)
RT	**71**	**Pierce Burton (Sr.)**	78	Robert Conyers (Fr.)
TE	84	Jack Nuismer (Sr.)		A.J. Jackson (Fr.)
QB	**14**	**Bo Wallace (Jr.)**	11	Barry Brunetti (Sr.)
RB	**3**	**Jeff Scott (Sr.)**	7	Mark Dodson (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**10**	**C.J. Johnson (Jr.)**	11	Channing Ward (So.)
DT	56	Woodrow Hamilton (So.)	45	Lavon Hooks (Jr.)
DT	95	Bryon Bennett (Jr.)	94	Issac Gross (So.)
DE	**55**	**Cameron Whigham (Sr.)**		Robert Nkemdiche (Fr.)
MLB	**52**	**Mike Marry (Sr.)**	9	D.T. Shackelford (Sr.)
OLB	**4**	**Denzel Nkemdiche (So.)**	14	Serderius Bryant (Jr.)
CB	21	Senquez Golson (Jr.)	23	Anthony Standifer (So.)
CB	**3**	**Charles Sawyer (Sr.)**	5	Nick Brassell (Jr.)
HUS	28	Mike Hilton (So.)		Antonio Conner (Fr.)
SS	**7**	**Trae Elston (So.)**	2	Quintavius Burdette (So.)
FS	**25**	**Cody Prewitt (Jr.)**	8	Chief Brown (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Andrew Ritter (Sr.)	**KR**	6	Jaylen Walton (So.)
P	97	Tyler Campbell (Sr.)	**PR**	28	Korvic Neat (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Bo Wallace, 368-235-2,994-17 22 TDs

Rushing: Jeff Scott, 197 att., 846 yds., 6 TDs

Receiving: Donte Moncrief, 66 rec., 979 yds., 10 TDs

Tackles: Denzel Nkemdiche, 82

Sacks: C.J. Johnson, 6.5

Interceptions: 3 players tied with 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Paul Levy

Head Coach: Hugh Freeze
Record at School: 7-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 37-13 (4 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators:
Matt Luke, Dan Werner
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Jason Jones, Dave Wommack
Oxford, MS
Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (60,580)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-4 (SEC)

August	
29	at Vanderbilt
September	
7	SE Missouri State
14	at Texas
28	at Alabama
October	
5	at Auburn
12	Texas A&M
19	LSU
26	Idaho
November	
9	Arkansas
16	Troy
23	Missouri
28	at Mississippi State

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Sept.	1	Central Arkansas	W	49-27
Sept.	8	UTEP	W	28-10
Sept.	15	Texas	L	31-66
Sept.	22	at Tulane	W	39-0
Sept.	29	at Alabama	L	14-33
Oct.	6	Texas A&M	L	27-30
Oct.	13	Auburn	W	41-20
Oct.	27	vs. Arkansas %	W	30-27
Nov.	3	at Georgia	L	10-37
Nov.	10	Vanderbilt	L	26-27
Nov.	17	at LSU	L	35-41
Nov.	24	Mississippi State	W	41-24
Jan.	5	vs. Pittsburgh #	W	38-17

%Little Rock #BBVA Compass Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Robert Nkemdiche, DE, Loganville, GA
2. Laremy Tunsil, OL, Lake City, FL
3. Laquon Treadwell, WR, Crete, IL
4. Antonio Conner, S, Batesville, MS
5. Austin Golson, OL, Prattville, AL
6. Kailo Moore, RB, Rosedale, MS
7. Mark Dodson, RB, Memphis, TN
8. Quadarias Mireles, WR, Delray Beach, FL
9. Nick Brassell, CB, Batesville, MS*
10. Lavon Hooks, DL, Atlanta, GA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	6	47
Rushing	173.9 ypg	5	49
Passing	249.9 ypg	5	49
Total	423.8 ypg	5	46
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	27.6 ppg	9	60
Rushing	129.3 ypg	6	25
Passing	246.5 ypg	11	80
Total	375.9 ypg	7	46
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-1	-0.08	9	63

Mississippi State BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST 41
SEC WEST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Dan Mullen
Record at School: 29-22 (4 years)
Career Record: 29-22 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Les Koenning
Defensive Coordinator: Geoff Collins
Starkville, MS
Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field (55,082)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (SEC)

August		
31	vs. Oklahoma State #	
September		
7	Alcorn State	
14	at Auburn	
21	Troy	
October		
5	LSU	
12	Bowling Green	
24	Kentucky	
November		
2	at South Carolina	
9	at Texas A&M	
16	Alabama	
23	vs. Arkansas %	
28	Ole Miss	

#Houston, TX %Little Rock, AR

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 4-4)

Sept.	1	Jackson State	W	56-9
Sept.	8	Auburn	W	28-10
Sept.	15	at Troy	W	30-24
Sept.	22	South Alabama	W	30-10
Oct.	6	at Kentucky	W	27-14
Oct.	13	Tennessee	W	41-31
Oct.	20	Middle Tennessee	W	45-3
Oct.	27	at Alabama	L	7-38
Nov.	3	Texas A&M	L	13-38
Nov.	10	at LSU	L	17-37
Nov.	17	Arkansas	W	45-14
Nov.	24	at Ole Miss	L	24-41
Jan.	1	vs. Northwestern #	L	20-34

#Gator Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chris Jones, DE, Houston, MS
2. Ashton Shumpert, ATH, Fulton, MS
3. Justin Cox, CB, Scooba, MS*
4. Donald Gray, WR, Memphis, TN
5. Fred Ross, WR, Tyler, TX
6. Jeremey Chappelle, WR, Tyler, TX*
7. Jake Thomas, T, Columbus, MS
8. Gabe Myles, ATH, Starkville, MS
9. B.J. Hammond, WR, Gadsden, AL
10. Jahmere Irvin-Sills, CB, Elkton, MD

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	29.5 ppg	9	60
Rushing	144.2 ypg	10	82
Passing	237.8 ypg	7	58
Total	381.9 ypg	7	79
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	23.3 ppg	8	34
Rushing	165.6 ypg	11	67
Passing	221.8 ypg	7	45
Total	387.4 ypg	8	52
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+16	+1.23	1	5

OFFENSE In 2012, Tyler Russell brought Mississippi State's passing game to a level it's rarely seen. And while he loses some key targets, the expectation is that the fifth-year senior quarterback has all the refinement and tools he needs to make the Bulldogs an even more productive offense this fall.

The top four pass-catchers from last season are gone, but the return of Russell and a deep backfield might be enough to compensate for the losses. Russell passed for 2,897 yards, 24 touchdowns and 10 interceptions last season, his first as a full-time starter, and put his name in the school record book in the process. His season, however, ended poorly; he threw a combined eight interceptions in losses to Ole Miss and Northwestern (Gator Bowl). Coaches don't seem too concerned about that finish, and in fact they're entrusting him with more of a say in the offense.

Much of the Bulldogs' offensive success will depend on the development of receivers who have had to wait their turn, like juniors Robert Johnson and Jameon Lewis. A player who can't be overlooked is tight end Malcolm Johnson, a junior who has averaged 18.0 yards per catch in his career.

LaDarius Perkins (1,024 yards, eight TDs) returns at tailback, and the senior will get plenty of help from sophomores Josh Robinson and Derrick Milton, who last season combined for 500 yards rushing.

21.4
Mississippi State's five losses last season came by an average of 21.4 points. MSU's "closest" loss was by 14 in the Gator Bowl to Northwestern.

What could make the ultimate difference for State is the offensive line, which was leaky last season and let Russell take too many hits. Four starters return, led by first-team All-SEC guard Gabe Jackson.

DEFENSE After two years as co-defensive coordinator, Geoff Collins earned a promotion to full-time coordinator this offseason, and he's been busy making changes to reflect his aggressive nature. It starts up front, where MSU is seeking a better pass rush, and the hope is that senior end Denico Autry will build off his strong finish to 2012. MSU has better depth across the front line, and Collins will mix in some 3-4 looks and lean heavily on linebackers to apply pressure.

He's letting everyone get in on the blitzing fun, including safeties. Free safety Jay Hughes noted that his group was working on blitzing in the spring much more than it had in the past. Hughes will be a key cog in a defensive backfield that lost three starters, including Thorpe Award winner Johnthan Banks.

Tackling was a big issue last season for MSU, and that's been an offseason focus as well.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Devon Bell and consistent punter Baker Swedenburg both return. MSU has several candidates in the return game, including the speedy Perkins. Lewis is the leading candidate to take over punt return duties, which was not a strong area for State last year (last in the league with a 7.4-yard average).

FINAL ANALYSIS MSU has won 29 games in four years under coach Dan Mullen, earning bowl berths each of the last three seasons. That's a big step forward for this program, but there is a hunger for much more. The Bulldogs just moved into a $25 million football-only facility, which could be viewed as symbolic of their effort to join the SEC's elite.

To do that, both lines must play at a much higher level, because the SEC will always expose weaknesses in the trenches. As it was last year, the back end of MSU's schedule is loaded, with games against South Carolina, Texas A&M, Alabama, Arkansas and Ole Miss. That closing stretch will define the Bulldogs' season and show just how far the program has come under Mullen.

LaDARIUS PERKINS

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"In the secondary, they are always pretty good. That's how they can get you. They have some athleticism and speed there."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	81	Robert Johnson (Jr.)	83	Jeremey Chapelle (Jr.)
WR	16	Joe Morrow (So.)	86	Fred Brown (Fr.)
WR	4	Jameon Lewis (Jr.)	80	Brandon Holloway (Fr.)
LT	75	**Blaine Clausell (Jr.)**	58	Justin Senior (Fr.)
LG	61	**Gabe Jackson (Sr.)**	66	Ben Beckwith (Jr.)
C	63	**Dillon Day (So.)**	55	Dylan Holley (Sr.)
RG	70	Justin Malone (So.)	59	Archie Muniz (Jr.)
RT	77	**Charles Siddoway (Sr.)**	78	Damien Robinson (Jr.)
TE	6	Malcolm Johnson (Jr.)	18	Brandon Hill (Jr.)
QB	17	**Tyler Russell (Sr.)**	15	Dak Prescott (So.)
RB	27	**LaDarius Perkins (Sr.)**	34	Josh Robinson (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	91	Preston Smith (Jr.)	48	Ryan Brown (So.)
DT	92	**Kaleb Eulls (Jr.)**	88	Nick James (So.)
DT	93	P.J. Jones (Jr.)	98	Curtis Virges (Jr.)
DE	90	**Denico Autry (Sr.)**	47	A.J. Jefferson (Fr.)
LB	22	Matt Wells (Jr.)	39	Richie Brown (Fr.)
LB	50	**Benardrick McKinney (So.)**	52	Ferlando Bohanna (Jr.)
LB	51	**Deontae Skinner (Sr.)**	12	Chris Hughes (Sr.)
CB	24	Jamerson Love (Jr.)	14	Cedric Jiles (So.)
CB	20	Justin Cox (Jr.)	37	Taveze Calhoun (So.)
SS	30	Jay Hughes (Jr.)	46	Kendrick Market (So.)
FS	5	**Nickoe Whitley (Sr.)**	38	Dee Arrington (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Devon Bell (So.)	KR	27	LaDarius Perkins (Sr.)
P	39	Baker Swedenburg (Sr.)	PR	4	Jameon Lewis (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Russell, 394-231-2,897-10, 24 TDs
Rushing: LaDarius Perkins, 205 att., 1,024 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: LaDarius Perkins, 19 rec., 160 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Benardrick McKinney, 102
Sacks: Preston Smith, 4.5
Interceptions: Nickoe Whitley, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST 9
SEC WEST PREDICTION 2

Texas A&M AGGIES

JOHNNY MANZIEL

THE QUOTE

"Once you've got everyone covered, if you don't account for the quarterback, he's going to run for a first down."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE Led by the return of quarterback Johnny Manziel, the first freshman in college football history to win the Heisman Trophy, the Aggies offense could be even better than the 2012 unit that became the first in SEC history to surpass 7,000 yards in a season.

With a firm grasp of coach Kevin Sumlin's offense, added strength and even more poise in the pocket, the ultra-confident Manziel believes he will be a better quarterback as a sophomore. And he appears to have more weapons at his disposal, including a bevy of talented running backs like returners Ben Malena and Trey Williams, along with a pair of tremendously talented transfers, Brandon Williams from Oklahoma and Tra Carson from Oregon.

A&M will undoubtedly miss Ryan Swope, who departed as the school's career leader in receptions and receiving yards. But Swope's records won't last long if 6'5" sophomore Mike Evans continues to build on his sensational debut. The physically imposing Evans, who finished last season with 82 catches for 1,105 yards, is a matchup nightmare for most defensive backs. Juniors Malcome Kennedy and LeKendrick Williams and senior Derel Walker all had impressive moments last season and could all play key roles in 2013. But they will be pressed for playing time by an extremely impressive array of newcomers like Ricky Seals-Jones and Ja'Quay Williams.

1

Not only did Texas A&M lead the SEC in total offense (558.5 ypg), but the Aggies also ranked No. 1 in both rushing (242.1 ypg) and passing (316.5).

The offensive line could be among the best in school history even though Luke Joeckel left for the NFL Draft. Future pro prospects like tackle Jake Matthews, tackle Cedric Ogbuehi, center Mike Matthews and guards Jarvis Harrison and Germain Ifedi form a great front.

DEFENSE Losing Damontre Moore and Spencer Nealy will hurt the defensive front, but if nose guard Kirby Ennis (knee) and end Julien Obioha (back) can return at full strength — as anticipated — the line could again be an area where the Aggies exceed expectations.

Linebacker is another area of concern, as the Aggies must replace Jonathan Stewart and Sean Porter. Fortunately, A&M returns one of its defensive anchors from last year in Steven Jenkins, who finished third on the team in 2012 with 79 tackles from his weak-side position. A&M needs a big season from junior college transfer outside linebacker Tommy Sanders, as well as hard-hitting Donnie Baggs in the middle of the 4-3 alignment.

A&M finished 12th out of 14 SEC schools last year in passing defense, but the Aggies should be dramatically improved this season. The trio of Howard Matthews, Toney Hurd and Floyd Raven form a solid combination at the safety positions, while De'Vante Harris and Deshazor Everett are outstanding cover cornerbacks.

SPECIALISTS A&M needs a better year from placekicker Taylor Bertolet, who has a strong leg but was not dependable on field goal attempts beyond 29 yards. While Bertolet was 8-of-9 from 29 yards or less, he was only 2-of-9 from 30 to 49 yards. Drew Kaser appears to be a solid replacement for Ryan Epperson at punter, while the Aggies have some big-play potential with return specialists such as Trey Williams and Brandon Williams on kickoffs and Harris and Sabian Holmes on punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS After leading A&M to an historic 11-win season last year and the school's first top-five finish since 1956, Manziel is aiming even higher in 2013. He fully realizes that the Aggies must replace numerous key starters from a year ago and manage unprecedented expectations as one of the SEC West's new powers. But Manziel and the Aggies have set their sights on a national title. That may be a tall task with an extremely inexperienced defense, but Manziel is already accustomed to overcoming long odds.

OFFENSE (6)

WR	13	**Mike Evans (So.)**	84	Malcome Kennedy (Jr.)
WR	10	LeKendrick Williams (Jr.)	23	Sabian Holmes (So.)
WR	11	Derel Walker (Sr.)	4	Ja'Quay Williams (Fr.)
LT	75	**Jake Matthews (Sr.)**	73	Jeremiah Stuckey (So.)
LG	51	**Jarvis Harrison (Jr.)**	77	Shep Klinke (Sr.)
C	56	Mike Matthews (So.)	68	Ben Compton (Jr.)
RG	74	Germain Ifedi (Fr.)	78	Garrett Gramling (Jr.)
RT	70	**Cedric Ogbuehi (Jr.)**	79	Joseph Cheek (So.)
TE	87	Cameron Clear (Jr.)	81	Nehemiah Hicks (Sr.)
QB	2	**Johnny Manziel (So.)**	16	Matt Joeckel (Jr.)
TB	1	**Ben Malena (Sr.)**	28	Brandon Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	72	Gavin Stansbury (Jr.)	41	Brandon Alexander (So.)
DT	83	Alonzo Williams (So.)		Isaiah Golden (Fr.)
NG	42	**Kirby Ennis (Sr.)**	71	Kimo Tipoti (Fr.)
DE	95	**Julien Obioha (So.)**	35	Tyrell Taylor (Jr.)
OLB	45	**Steven Jenkins (Sr.)**	52	Brett Wade (Fr.)
MLB	36	Donnie Baggs (Jr.)	40	Shaun Ward (Jr.)
OLB	55	Tommy Sanders (Jr.)	9	Nate Askew (Sr.)
CB	1	**De'Vante Harris (So.)**	7	Tramain Jacobs (Sr.)
CB	29	**Deshazor Everett (Jr.)**	37	Alex Sezer (Fr.)
SS	31	Howard Matthews (Jr.)	4	Toney Hurd (Sr.)
FS	14	Floyd Raven (Jr.)	25	Clay Honeycutt (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	24	Taylor Bertolet (So.)	KR	20	Trey Williams (So.)
P	38	Drew Kaser (So.)	PR	1	De'Vante Harris (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Johnny Manziel 434-295-3,706-9 26 TDs
Rushing: Johnny Manziel, 201 att., 1,410 yds., 21 TDs
Receiving: Mike Evans, 82 rec. 1,105 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Steven Jenkins, 79
Sacks: Donnie Baggs, 1.5
Interceptions: Deshazor Everett, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

Head Coach: Kevin Sumlin
Record at School: 11-2 (1 year)
Career Record: 46-19 (5 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Clarence McKinney, Jake Spavital
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Mark Snyder, Marcel Yates
College Station, TX
Kyle Field (82,600)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 (SEC)

August		
31	Rice	
September		
7	Sam Houston State	
14	Alabama	
21	SMU	
28	at Arkansas	
October		
12	at Ole Miss	
19	Auburn	
26	Vanderbilt	
November		
2	UTEP	
9	Mississippi State	
23	at LSU	
30	at Missouri	

2012 RESULTS (11-2, 6-2)

Sept.	8	Florida	L	17–20
Sept.	15	at SMU	W	48–3
Sept.	22	South Carolina State	W	70–14
Sept.	29	Arkansas	W	58–10
Oct.	6	at Ole Miss	W	30–27
Oct.	13	vs. Louisiana Tech %	W	59–57
Oct.	20	LSU	L	19–24
Oct.	27	at Auburn	W	63–21
Nov.	3	at Mississippi State	W	38–13
Nov.	10	at Alabama	W	29–24
Nov.	17	Sam Houston State	W	47–28
Nov.	24	Missouri	W	59–29
Jan.	4	vs. Oklahoma #	W	41–13

%Shreveport #Cotton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ricky Seals-Jones, WR, Sealy, TX
2. Justin Manning, DT, Dallas, TX
3. Isaiah Golden, DT, Carthage, TX
4. Sebastian Larue, WR, Los Angeles, CA
5. Daeshon Hall, DE, Lancaster, TX
6. Kohl Stewart, QB, Tomball, TX
7. LaQuvionte Gonzalez, WR, Cedar Hill, TX
8. Kameron Miles, DB, Mesquite, TX
9. Kenny Hill, QB, Southlake, TX
10. Tommy Sanders, LB, Cordele, GA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	44.5 ppg	1	4
Rushing	242.1 ypg	1	11
Passing	316.5 ypg	1	14
Total	558.5 ypg	1	3
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	21.8 ppg	7	26
Rushing	139.5 ypg	7	35
Passing	250.7 ypg	12	86
Total	390.2 ypg	9	57
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-5	-0.38	11	86

SUN BELT PREVIEW

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. UL LAFAYETTE **RAGIN' CAJUNS** 9-3, 6-1 SUN BELT
2. ULM **WARHAWKS** 7-5, 5-2 SUN BELT
3. WESTERN KENTUCKY **HILLTOPPERS** 7-5, 5-2 SUN BELT
4. ARKANSAS STATE **RED WOLVES** 6-6, 4-3 SUN BELT
5. TROY **TROJANS** 6-6, 4-3 SUN BELT
6. TEXAS STATE **BOBCATS** 4-8, 2-5 SUN BELT
7. SOUTH ALABAMA **JAGUARS** 3-9, 2-5 SUN BELT
8. GEORGIA STATE **PANTHERS** 1-11, 0-7 SUN BELT

John Korduner/Icon SMI

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. UL Lafayette
2. Texas State
3. Western Kentucky
4. South Alabama
5. Arkansas State
6. Troy
7. Georgia State
8. ULM

2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARKANSAS STATE	4	2	3	1	2	4	3
GEORGIA STATE	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
SOUTH ALABAMA	6	6	5	6	5	5	6
TEXAS STATE	7	5	7	7	6	6	5
TROY	3	7	4	5	4	7	4
UL LAFAYETTE	2	3	2	3	3	2	7
ULM	1	4	1	2	1	3	2
WESTERN KENTUCKY	5	1	6	4	7	1	1

PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	KOLTON BROWNING	6-1	203	Sr.	ULM
RB	ANTONIO ANDREWS	6-0	211	Sr.	Western Kentucky
RB	DAVID OKU	5-10	195	Sr.	Arkansas State
WR	JE'RON HAMM	6-4	233	Sr.	ULM
WR	J.D. MCKISSIC	5-10	185	So.	Arkansas State
TE	WES SAXTON	6-4	235	So.	South Alabama
C	ANDRE HUVAL	6-1	290	So.	UL Lafayette
G	STEVEN HAUNGA	6-2	313	Sr.	Arkansas State
G	DANIEL QUAVE	6-3	324	Jr.	UL Lafayette
T	MYKHAEL QUAVE	6-5	300	So.	UL Lafayette
T	JOSEPH TREADWELL	6-5	316	Jr.	ULM

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ALEX PAGE	6-1	245	Jr.	South Alabama
DE	CHRISTIAN RINGO	6-1	285	Jr.	UL Lafayette
DT	KENTARIUS CALDWELL	6-2	273	Sr.	ULM
DT	RYAN CARRETHERS	6-2	310	Sr.	Arkansas State
LB	ANDREW JACKSON	6-1	265	Sr.	Western Kentucky
LB	QUSHAUN LEE	5-11	225	Jr.	Arkansas State
LB	MICHAEL ORAKPO	6-1	225	Jr.	Texas State
CB	XAVIER DANIELS	6-0	165	Sr.	Texas State
CB	TYREE ROBINSON	5-10	200	Sr.	Western Kentucky
S	JONATHAN DOWLING	6-3	198	Jr.	Western Kentucky
S	ISAIAH NEWSOME	5-11	196	Sr.	ULM

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	BRIAN DAVIS	5-11	160	Sr.	Arkansas State
P	WILL SCOTT	5-11	192	Sr.	Troy
KR	JAFUS GAINES	5-11	160	So.	Texas State
PR	ANTONIO ANDREWS	6-0	211	Sr.	Western Kentucky

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TERRANCE BROADWAY	6-2	205	Jr.	UL Lafayette
RB	JYRUSS EDWARDS	5-11	198	Sr.	ULM
RB	ALONZO HARRIS	6-1	220	Jr.	UL Lafayette
WR	JAMAL ROBINSON	6-4	205	Jr.	UL Lafayette
WR	ERIC THOMAS	6-1	209	Sr.	Troy
TE	MITCHELL HENRY	6-4	245	Jr.	Western Kentucky
C	SEAN CONWAY	6-3	305	Sr.	Western Kentucky
G	JON FISHER	6-3	306	Sr.	ULM
G	CLIFF MITCHELL	6-5	305	Sr.	Arkansas State
T	CAMERON CLEMMONS	6-6	305	Jr.	Western Kentucky
T	MELVIN MEGGS	6-3	310	So.	South Alabama

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	EDDIE PORTER	6-3	235	Sr.	Arkansas State
DE	CHRIS STONE	6-3	245	So.	Arkansas State
DT	JUSTIN HAMILTON	6-3	330	Jr.	UL Lafayette
DT	D.J. YENDREY	6-4	273	Sr.	Texas State
LB	JUSTIN ANDERSON	6-2	220	Sr.	UL Lafayette
LB	CAMERON BLAKES	6-1	233	Sr.	ULM
LB	ENRIQUE WILLIAMS	6-0	235	Jr.	South Alabama
CB	VINCENT EDDIE	5-8	153	Sr.	ULM
CB	TYRELL PEARSON	5-8	150	Jr.	South Alabama
S	CHRIS PICKETT	5-11	200	Sr.	Troy
S	STERLING YOUNG	6-2	182	Jr.	Arkansas State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	WILL SCOTT	5-11	192	Sr.	Troy
P	MATT HUBBARD	6-4	230	Jr.	Georgia State
KR	ANTONIO ANDREWS	6-0	211	Sr.	Western Kentucky
PR	ANDY ERICKSON	5-10	175	Sr.	Texas State

NATIONAL FORECAST **105**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **4**

Arkansas State
RED WOLVES

J.D. McKISSIC

THE QUOTE

"That was the most talented team in the league the last two years. They are really going to miss (quarterback) Ryan Aplin."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	7	Julian Jones (Sr.)	84	Derek Keaton (So.)
WR	23	**J.D. McKissic (So.)**	27	Tres Houston (So.)
WR	1	**Carlos McCants (Sr.)**	4	R.J. Fleming (Sr.)
LT	67	**Aaron Williams (Sr.)**	79	Jemar Clark (Fr.)
LG	60	**Steven Haunga (Sr.)**	71	Steven Stevens (So.)
C	68	**Bryce Giddens (So.)**	58	Tyler Greve (Jr.)
RG	63	**Cliff Mitchell (Sr.)**	69	Alan Wright (Jr.)
RT	61	Colton Jackson (Fr.)	70	Devin Mondie (Fr.)
TE	19	Darion Griswold (So.)	87	Kenneth Rains (Jr.)
QB		Adam Kennedy (Sr.)	8	Stephen Hogan (So.)
RB	25	**David Oku (Sr.)**	35	Michael Gordon (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	42	Chris Stone (So.)	93	Darius Dunaway (Sr.)
DT	98	**Ryan Carrethers (Sr.)**	77	Dexter Blackmon (Sr.)
DT	97	Amos Draper (Sr.)	94	Markel Owens (Jr.)
DE	37	**Eddie Porter (Sr.)**	96	John Gandy (Sr.)
LB	48	**Qushaun Lee (Jr.)**	57	Brian Anderson (So.)
LB	12	Kyle Coleman (Jr.)	41	LaAngelo Albright (Sr.)
NS	1	Charleston Girley (So.)	6	Frankie Jackson (Jr.)
CB	38	Rocky Hayes (So.)	24	**Andrew Tryon (Jr.)**
CB	10	Artez Brown (Jr.)	28	Willie Fletcher (Fr.)
S	11	**Sterling Young (Jr.)**	14	Dezmond Stegall (Fr.)
S	29	Chris Humes (So.)	44	Brock Barnhill (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	4	Brian Davis (Sr.)	KR	38	Rocky Hayes (So.)
P	4	Brian Davis (Sr.)	PR	38	Rocky Hayes (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Fredi Knighten, 5-3-44-1, 1 TD
Rushing: David Oku, 243 att., 1,061 yds, 16 TDs
Receiving: J.D. McKissic, 103 rec., 1,022 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Qushaun Lee, 100
Sacks: Eddie Porter, 2.5
Interceptions: Sterling Young, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Bryan Harsin will use an up-tempo, no-huddle offense — same as his immediate predecessors at Arkansas State. Unlike Hugh Freeze and Gus Malzahn, Harsin won't have two-time Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year Ryan Aplin at quarterback. Aplin shattered 25-plus school records and led ASU to consecutive 10-win seasons, helping his last two coaches land SEC coaching jobs in the process.

Adam Kennedy, a senior transfer who led Utah State to a 4–1 record in the last five games of the 2011 season, joins ASU's quarterback competition in preseason camp. He'll battle senior Phillip Butterfield and sophomores Stephen Hogan and Fredi Knighten. Butterfield, who played only a few snaps last year, is a career backup who has battled knee injuries. Hogan is a former wide receiver who made huge strides in spring practice.

Running back is in the capable hands of senior David Oku, a transfer from Tennessee who ran for 1,061 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2012. Oku is a solid all-around back with a knack for gaining tough yards. Rocky Hayes will spend most of his time at cornerback but is expected to have a role on offense after averaging 9.3 yards on limited carries as a freshman. Sophomore Michael Gordon, who ran for eight touchdowns in three spring scrimmages, has the speed to give the Red Wolves another big-play threat.

103

J.D. McKissic caught 103 passes last season, the most in the nation by a freshman.

Receiver should also be a strength. J.D. McKissic was the Sun Belt Freshman of the Year in 2012 with 103 catches for 1,022 yards. Senior Julian Jones averaged 30.3 yards on 13 catches last year, turning seven into touchdowns. Sophomore Darion Griswold provides a big target (6'5", 240 pounds) at tight end.

ASU has experience (four returning starters) and depth on the offensive line. Bryce Giddens took over at center as a true freshman, and senior Aaron Williams is steady at left tackle.

DEFENSE Harsin opted for continuity on defense by retaining John Thompson, a well-traveled coordinator whose 2012 unit led the Sun Belt in scoring defense. The line features senior tackle Ryan Carrethers, a 310-pound roadblock against the run. Carrethers made 68 tackles last season. Senior end Eddie Porter, a converted linebacker who forced four fumbles last year, has disruptive ability on the edge.

Linebacker Qushaun Lee, the Defensive MVP of the GoDaddy.com Bowl, made 100 tackles last season and will be counted on even more with the departure of All-Sun Belt linebacker Nathan Herrold. Kyle Coleman, son of former NFL linebacker Monte Coleman, is expected to line up alongside Lee after spending two seasons in the secondary.

Depth is a concern at safety behind junior Sterling Young, a two-year regular at his position, and sophomore Chris Humes. Hayes' switch to cornerback, where he spent preseason camp in 2012, improves the picture there.

SPECIALISTS Senior Brian Davis is a reliable placekicker (17-of-21 on field goals last season) and may take over as the punter. The Red Wolves were dreadful on punts last season, ranking last in the FBS in net punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS Freeze and Malzahn set a high bar for Harsin, the former offensive coordinator at Boise State and Texas. They didn't leave the roster barren, either. Oku, McKissic, Carrethers, Lee and Young are among the Sun Belt's best at their positions.

A coaching transition is nothing new for the Red Wolves, who are on their fourth head coach in as many seasons, but they haven't lined up without Aplin since the middle of the 2009 season. Finding an adequate replacement at quarterback is the key to their hopes of earning a third straight bowl bid and making a push for the Sun Belt title.

Head Coach: Bryan Harsin
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Eliah Drinkwitz, Bush Hamdon
Defensive Coordinator: John Thompson
Jonesboro, AR
Liberty Bank Stadium (30,708)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 4-3 (SUN BELT)

August		
	31	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
September		
	7	at Auburn
	12	Troy
	21	at Memphis
	28	at Missouri
October		
	12	Idaho
	22	UL Lafayette
November		
	2	at South Alabama
	9	at UL Monroe
	16	Texas State
	23	Georgia State
	30	at Western Kentucky

2012 RESULTS (10-3, 7-1)

Sept.	1	at Oregon	L	45–57
Sept.	8	Memphis	W	33–28
Sept.	15	at Nebraska	L	13–42
Sept.	22	Alcorn State	W	56–0
Sept.	29	Western Kentucky	L	13–26
Oct.	4	at FIU	W	34–20
Oct.	13	South Alabama	W	36–29
Oct.	23	at UL Lafayette	W	50–27
Nov.	3	at North Texas	W	37–19
Nov.	8	UL Monroe	W	45–23
Nov.	17	at Troy	W	41–34
Dec.	1	Middle Tennessee	W	45–0
Jan.	6	vs. Kent State #	W	17–13

#GoDaddy.com Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Colin Janice, S, Orange, TX
2. Cameron Birse, QB, Danville, CA
3. Carl Lee Jr., WR, Mobile, AL
4. Dijon Paschal, WR, Tallassee, AL
5. Garrett Kaufman, LB, Bentonville, AR
6. Jamaris Hart, CB, Florence, AL
7. Jonah Hill, TE, Springfield, MO
8. Willie Fletcher, CB, Carson, CA
9. Jeremy Fulcher, S, Dallas, TX
10. Ja'Von Jones, DE, Mesquite, TX

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	34.9 ppg	2	26
Rushing	206.2 ypg	1	23
Passing	260.5 ypg	4	43
Total	466.7 ypg	2	23
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	24.5 ppg	1	43
Rushing	156.4 ypg	5	58
Passing	227.3 ypg	3	53
Total	383.7 ypg	2	51
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+9	+0.69	2	23

Arkansas State SID

Georgia State PANTHERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 125
SUN BELT PREDICTION 8

Head Coach: Trent Miles
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 20-36 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Jagodzinski
Defensive Coordinator: Jesse Minter
Atlanta, GA
Georgia Dome (28,155)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 1-11, 0-7 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	Samford
September	
7	Chattanooga
14	at West Virginia
21	Jacksonville State
October	
5	at Alabama
12	Troy
19	at Texas State
26	at UL Monroe
November	
2	Western Kentucky
16	UL Lafayette
23	at Arkansas State
30	South Alabama

2012 RESULTS (1-10, 1-7 CAA)

Aug.	30	South Carolina State	L	6–33
Sept.	8	at Tennessee	L	13–51
Sept.	15	UTSA	L	14–38
Sept.	22	Richmond	L	14–35
Sept.	29	at William & Mary	L	3–35
Oct.	6	New Hampshire	L	21–44
Oct.	13	at Rhode Island	W	41–7
Oct.	20	Villanova	L	24–49
Oct.	27	at James Madison	L	21–28
Nov.	3	Old Dominion	L	27–53
Nov.	10	at Maine	L	7–51

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Clay Chastain, QB, Powder Springs, GA*
2. Jalen Lawrence, DT, Macon, GA
3. Alex Stoehr, G, Suwanee, GA
4. Jameel Spencer, LB, Atlanta, GA
5. Tyshaun Clemmons, WR, Calhoun, GA
6. Trent Hill, S, Atlanta, GA
7. Kight Dallas, LB, Stone Mountain, GA
8. Will Cunningham, DE, Cape Coral, FL
9. George Rogers, DL, Stillwater, OK*
10. Robert Dowling, CB, Marietta, GA

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	CAA
Scoring	17.4 ppg	10
Rushing	110.5 ypg	10
Passing	203.4 ypg	7
Total	313.9 ypg	10
Defense	**Per Game**	**CAA**
Scoring	38.5 ppg	10
Rushing	235.5 ypg	11
Passing	234.6 ypg	7
Total	470.1 ypg	10
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**CAA**
-20	-1.81	11

OFFENSE The challenges are many for new coach Trent Miles and offensive coordinator Jeff Jagodzinski — a former head coach at Boston College — as they take over an offense that averaged just 17.4 points per game against a Colonial Athletic Association schedule. Much experience does return, and the coaches hope a change in philosophy will increase production. There will be more of a two-back, under-center approach that will feature underneath passes and a grind-it-out mentality.

At quarterback, Ben McLane returns after starting nine games as a redshirt freshman. McLane completed just over 50 percent of his passes with 10 touchdowns and is regarded as a game manager who makes solid decisions with the ball.

Junior college transfer Gerald Howse is in line to be the top running back, with senior Travis Evans spelling him.

The offense's top player is wideout Albert Wilson, who caught 48 passes for 947 yards and seven touchdowns in 2012. The new staff will try to get the ball in Wilson's hands as much as possible.

The starting offensive line returns, led by 6'8", 290-pound NFL prospect tackle Ulrick John. The group surrendered 28 sacks last season, but the hope is that a more experienced unit and shorter passing game will reduce that number.

50

Georgia State is 0–3 against FBS competition in its three years of existence. The average margin of defeat in those games was 50 points.

DEFENSE There is reason for optimism on the defensive side of the ball. Five starters return, and the hope is that Georgia State will be formidable against the run. Defensive linemen Theo Agnew and Terrance Woodard were second and third, respectively, on the Panthers in tackles a year ago, and they are being joined by a pair of talented newcomers. Kentucky transfer Nermin Delic is eligible after sitting out and should start right away, and junior college transfer George Rogers looked like one of the top defensive linemen in spring ball.

New defensive coordinator Jesse Minter, whose unit allowed just 14.3 points per game at Indiana State last season, is switching to a 3-4 alignment. The new scheme means a position change for John Kelly, who moves from end to outside linebacker. Top tackler Joseph Peterson is back at inside linebacker and is joined by Robert Ferguson, giving the front seven some solid experience.

Defending the pass could be an issue early, as Kail Singleton and Arington Jordan move into starting roles at the safety spots. Corners Jamal Ransby and Brent McClendon return, but they were part of a unit that surrendered 26 passing touchdowns and came up with just 10 interceptions.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Wil Lutz won the starting job during the season and should be dependable, especially from inside 40. Lutz was 4-of-7 as a freshman, hitting all three from inside the 40. Punter Matt Hubbard also returns after averaging a solid 43.1 yards, with 21 kicks going over 50 yards last season. Wilson is a dangerous return man, handling both kickoff and punt return duties. The speedster averaged 25.9 yards per kick return and took one back 100 yards for a score.

FINAL ANALYSIS There is no question that Miles faces an uphill climb in Year 1 with the move from FCS to FBS and the Sun Belt Conference. Georgia State struggled to compete in the CAA last season, finishing 1–7 and losing six of those games by at least 20 points.

But Miles is no stranger to rebuilds. Indiana State was the worst FCS program in the nation when he was hired in 2008, with a 1–32 record in the three seasons prior to his arrival. He struggled early, but went 19–14 (13–11 in the Missouri Valley) in his final three seasons. The guy clearly knows how to coach.

ALBERT WILSON

Georgia State SID

THE QUOTE

"Usually, you will see some good athletes on a team like that, but they will be undersized on both the offensive and defensive lines."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**2**	**Albert Wilson (Sr.)**	8	Jordan Giles (Sr.)
WR	17	Danny Williams (Sr.)	80	Avery Sweeting (So.)
LT	**56**	**Ulrick John (Sr.)**	70	Ramell Davis (Sr.)
LG	**50**	**Tim Wynn (Jr.)**	60	Cade Yates (Sr.)
C	**68**	**Michael Davis (Sr.)**	71	Mark Ruskell (Fr.)
RG	**72**	**Harrison Clottey (Sr.)**	59	Garrett Gorringe (Fr.)
RT	**79**	**Grant King (Sr.)**	64	Treavor Flannigan (Fr.)
TE	89	Drew Pearson (Jr.)	85	Alex Smith (Jr.)
QB	**16**	**Ben McLane (So.)**	11	Clay Chastain (So.)
FB	47	Sean Jeppesen (Jr.)	38	Eric Sundby (Jr.)
RB	28	Gerald Howse (Jr.)	21	Travis Evans (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DT	**92**	**Theo Agnew (Sr.)**	73	George Rogers (Jr.)
NG	**75**	**Terrance Woodard (Sr.)**	90	Joe Lockley (So.)
DT	91	Nermin Delic (Jr.)	53	Tanner Strickland (Fr.)
OLB	**95**	**John Kelly (Jr.)**	99	Melvin King (So.)
ILB	10	Robert Ferguson (Sr.)	46	Jarrell Robinson (Jr.)
ILB	**44**	**Joseph Peterson (So.)**	32	Allen McKay (Sr.)
OLB	3	Tarris Batiste (So.)	36	Bryan Williams (So.)
CB	5	Demarius Matthews (Sr.)	26	Jamal Ransby (Sr.)
CB	**9**	**Brent McClendon (Sr.)**	1	Nate Anthony (Sr.)
S	24	Kail Singleton (Sr.)	20	LaDarion Young (Fr.)
S	12	Arington Jordan (Sr.)	29	Rashad Stewart (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Wil Lutz (So.)	**KR**	2	Albert Wilson (Sr.)
P	49	Matt Hubbard (Jr.)	**PR**	2	Albert Wilson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ben McLane, 274-139-1,592-11, 10 TDs
Rushing: Travis Evans, 75 att., 323 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Albert Wilson, 48 rec., 947 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Joseph Peterson, 65
Sacks: Theo Agnew, 2; John Kelly, 2
Interceptions: 5 tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NATIONAL FORECAST 66
SUN BELT PREDICTION 1

Louisiana-Lafayette
RAGIN' CAJUNS

ALONZO HARRIS

THE QUOTE

"Really, really impressed, as everyone is, with the job Mark Hudspeth has done over there. They've got it going now."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	15	Jamal Robinson (Jr.)	4	Ricky Johnson (Sr.)
WR	87	**Darryl Surgent (Sr.)**	23	Bradley Brown (Sr.)
WR	11	James Butler (Jr.)	83	Jared Johnson (Fr.)
LT	70	**Mykhael Quave (So.)**	62	Jarad Martin (Jr.)
LG	75	Terry Johnson (Jr.)	63	Jeremy Sparks (Fr.)
C	71	**Andre Huval (Sr.)**	78	Daniel Lemelle (Sr.)
RG	67	**Daniel Quave (Jr.)**	69	Greg Siener (So.)
RT	61	Johnny Kight (So.)	68	Octravian Anderson (So.)
TE	85	**Ian Thompson (Sr.)**	86	Jacob Maxwell (Sr.)
QB	8	**Terrance Broadway (Jr.)**	7	D'Shaie Landor (Fr.)
RB	46	**Alonzo Harris (Jr.)**	26	Effrem Reed (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	92	**Christian Ringo (Jr.)**	97	Jalen Fields (Sr.)
DT	74	**Justin Hamilton (Jr.)**	66	Marvin Martin (Jr.)
DT	96	Brandon McCray (Sr.)	94	Karmichael Dunbar (Fr.)
DE	57	Chris Prater (So.)	52	Dominique Tovell (So.)
OLB	39	Chris Hill (So.)	35	Boris Anyama (Jr.)
MLB	34	**Justin Anderson (Sr.)**	29	Tyren Alexander (So.)
OLB	38	Trae Johnson (Jr.)	48	Andrew Hebert (Sr.)
CB	18	Jevante Watson (So.)	11	O'Neill Parker (So.)
CB	24	Sean Thomas (Jr.)		Cedrick Tillman (Jr.)
SS	33	Trevence Patt (Jr.)	27	T.J. Worthy (So.)
FS	20	Will Burrowes (Sr.)	25	Al-Damion Riles (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Stephen Brauchle (So.)	KR	87	Darryl Surgent (Sr.)
P	13	Daniel Cadona (Jr.)	PR	3	Montrel Carter (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Terrance Broadway, 315-206-2,842-9, 17 TDs
Rushing: Alonzo Harris, 170 att., 881 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Jamal Robinson, 26 rec., 630 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Justin Anderson, 105
Sacks: Christian Ringo, 7
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Questions were plentiful when returning New Orleans Bowl MVP Blaine Gautier broke his wrist in the fourth game of the 2012 season, but Terrance Broadway answered those immediately. In only nine starts, Broadway set school records for total offense (3,616 yards) and completion percentage (65.4). He was also the Ragin' Cajuns' second-leading rusher (769 yards), and now heads into his junior year with a better grasp of coach Mark Hudspeth's multiple scheme.

It doesn't hurt that the Cajuns return their four top rushers, five of their top seven receivers and three linemen who have combined for 65 starts.

Burly running back Alonzo Harris has rushed for 1,581 yards in two years and still has two seasons remaining. Effrem Reed (414 yards) and Montrel Carter provide speed to the backfield. Carter was the Game 1 starter last season but went down with an ACL injury after only six carries.

Center Andre Huval, a third-year starter, is the unquestioned leader of the line. The Quave brothers, Daniel and Mykhael, also return, with Mykhael shifting from guard to the all-important left tackle slot on a unit that had the same starting lineup for 26 straight games. Tackle Johnny Kight, a junior college signee, played well during spring drills.

94.8

ULL ranked second nationally in red zone efficiency in 2012, scoring points on 94.8 percent of its trips inside the 20-yard line.

Big targets Ian Thompson and Jacob Maxwell return at tight end, but filling the shoes of dangerous wideouts Harry Peoples and Javone Lawson (nearly 4,000 combined career yards) remains the biggest question on offense. A return to form by veteran Darryl Surgent and the continued improvement of Jamal Robinson, James Butler and Bradley Brown should help fill that void.

DEFENSE Lost in the euphoria of a second straight 9–4 season and another bowl victory was a defense that ranked seventh in the Sun Belt overall and last against the pass in league games. Spring practice did little to placate the fears that surround a porous secondary. ULL went heavy on defensive back signees, with junior college transfers Cedrick Tillman and Corey Trim expected to make an impact. Veteran safety Trevence Patt came on strong to close the 2012 season.

The rest of the defense is in better shape. New coordinator James Willis plans to employ multiple looks from a unit that began last season in a 3-4 base and finished as a 4-3.

Christian Ringo (10.5 tackles for a loss), Brandon McCray and 330-pound Justin Hamilton have a combined 25 starts and lead a defensive line that was solid against the rush last fall.

Motivational leader Justin Anderson, the team leader with 105 tackles last year, moves from outside to inside linebacker, while Chris Hill was a late-season starter as a true freshman.

SPECIALISTS An all-conference pick as both a placekicker and punter, Brett Baer graduated as the NCAA's all-time field goal accuracy leader (90.0 percent) among those with at least 50 attempts. ULL went to Australia to find punter Daniel Cadona, who had never donned pads before spring drills. Stephen Brauchle is the frontrunner to take over placekicking duties. Surgent had an off-year in 2012 as a return specialist after a solid sophomore season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cajuns led the Sun Belt in scoring last season (35.5 ppg) and could be even better offensively this year. They will need to be, since ULL's defense ranged from mediocre to bad in 2012. Hudspeth is confident that the new scheme will solve some of his team's defensive issues. Still, it's clear that the Cajuns will have to score a bunch of points to win games this season — something they are more than capable of doing. The school's first Sun Belt title since 2005 is well within reach.

Head Coach: Mark Hudspeth
Record at School: 18-8 (2 years)
Career Record: 84-29 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jay Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: James Willis
Lafayette, LA
Cajun Field (31,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-1 SUN BELT

August	
31	at Arkansas
September	
7	at Kansas State
14	Nicholls State
21	at Akron
October	
5	Texas State
15	at Western Kentucky
22	at Arkansas State
November	
2	New Mexico State
7	Troy
16	at Georgia State
30	UL Monroe
December	
7	at South Alabama

2012 RESULTS (9-4, 6-2)

Sept.	1	Lamar	W	40–0
Sept.	8	at Troy	W	37–24
Sept.	15	at Oklahoma State	L	24–65
Sept.	29	FIU	W	48–20
Oct.	6	Tulane	W	41–13
Oct.	16	at North Texas	L	23–30
Oct.	23	Arkansas State	L	27–50
Nov.	3	at UL Monroe	W	40–24
Nov.	10	at Florida	L	20–27
Nov.	17	Western Kentucky	W	31–27
Nov.	24	South Alabama	W	52–30
Dec.	1	at Florida Atlantic	W	35–21
Dec.	22	vs. East Carolina #	W	43–34

#New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cedrick Tillman, CB, Grenada, MS*
2. George Williams, LB, Miami, FL
3. Simeon Thomas, DB, Miami, FL
4. Troy McCollum, DB, Miami, FL
5. Johnny Kight, OL, Louisville, MS*
6. Marquis White, DL, Orlando, FL*
7. Daniel Cadona, P, Toowoomba, Australia
8. Stephen Brauchle, K, Gulfport, MS*
9. Elijah McGuire, RB, Houma, LA
10. Corey Trim, CB, Baton Rouge, LA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	35.5 ppg	1	24
Rushing	193.5 ypg	2	34
Passing	261.9 ypg	3	42
Total	455.3 ypg	3	29
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	28.1 ppg	5	63
Rushing	144.6 ypg	4	42
Passing	283.5 ypg	9	112
Total	428.1 ypg	7	86
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-1	-0.08	5	63

UL Lafayette SID

ULM WARHAWKS

NATIONAL FORECAST 80
SUN BELT PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Todd Berry
Record at School: 17-20 (3 years)
Career Record: 46-80 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Farmer
Defensive Coordinator: Troy Reffett
Monroe, LA
Malone Stadium (30,427)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-2 SUN BELT

August		
31	at Oklahoma	
September		
7	Grambling State	
14	at Wake Forest	
21	at Baylor	
28	Tulane	
October		
3	Western Kentucky	
12	at Texas State	
26	Georgia State	
31	at Troy	
November		
9	Arkansas State	
23	at South Alabama	
30	at UL Lafayette	

2012 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Sept.	8	vs. Arkansas %	(ot)	W	34-31
Sept.	15	at Auburn	(ot)	L	28-31
Sept.	21	Baylor		L	42-47
Sept.	29	at Tulane		W	63-10
Oct.	6	at Middle Tennessee		W	31-17
Oct.	13	Florida Atlantic		W	35-14
Oct.	20	at Western Kentucky	(ot)	W	43-42
Oct.	27	South Alabama		W	38-24
Nov.	3	UL Lafayette		L	24-40
Nov.	8	at Arkansas State		L	23-45
Nov.	17	North Texas		W	42-16
Nov.	24	at FIU	(ot)	W	23-17
Dec.	28	vs. Ohio #		L	14-45

%Little Rock #Independence Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Everett Anderson, DE, Houston, TX
2. Bivins Caraway III, QB, Longview, TX
3. David Elias, Jr., DL, Prairieville, LA
4. Jarred Dunn, LB, Monroe, LA
5. Matthew Oubre, OL, Dayton, TX
6. Grant Dotsy, DB, Rowlett, TX
7. De'Vonte Haggerty, WR, Tyler, TX
8. Chase Regian, OL, Rockwall, TX
9. Marquis McCullum, DB, Birmingham, AL
10. Trey Martin, OL, Hot Springs, AR

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	33.9 ppg	3	32
Rushing	142.1 ypg	8	85
Passing	290.7 ypg	2	27
Total	432.8 ypg	4	42
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	29.2 ppg	6	72
Rushing	142.2 ypg	3	39
Passing	276.5 ypg	8	108
Total	418.8 ypg	6	78
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+7	+0.54	3	33

OFFENSE ULM went 6–0 in the Sun Belt with a healthy Kolton Browning at quarterback. The Warhawks went 0–2 — with losses to UL Lafayette and Arkansas State — when Browning was sidelined with an injury. It's safe to say that Browning, the 2012 Sun Belt Offensive Player of the Year, is an important part of the ULM attack. The southpaw threw for 3,049 yard and 29 touchdowns and added 488 yards and seven TDs on the ground as a junior. Browning could top the Sun Belt's all-time lists in both passing yards and total offense if he can remain healthy as a senior.

Browning, however, is far from a one-man show. Six other starters return on the offensive side of the ball, including a talented stable of skill players. The wideout trio of Je'Ron Hamm, Tavarese Maye and Colby Harper combined to catch 147 passes in 2012 and should be able to compensate for the graduation of leading receiver Brent Leonard. All the running backs return, led by senior Jyruss Edwards, who missed five games with an injury last season. A steady ground game would both complement Browning and protect him from yet another injury.

"We will still lean on Kolton, and he's gained 20 pounds and really filled out to be more durable," coach Todd Berry says. "But we need to run the ball to help him. Our offensive line is bigger and more experienced than it's ever been. If we can run the ball, our offense will be better than at any point last year."

34.7

ULM averaged 34.7 points in its three games against AQ conference opponents. In 2011, the Warhawks averaged 8.5 in two games against AQ conference foes.

DEFENSE Arguably ULM's best defensive lineman (Kentarius Caldwell), linebacker (Cameron Blakes) and defensive back (Mitch Lane) were lost to injury last season. All three are back to anchor a defense that returns nine starters.

ULM is already strong in the secondary. The Warhawks intercepted a league-best 16 passes last season, which helped put their offense in advantageous scoring situations. But the pass rush and run defense could use an upgrade. ULM allowed at least 200 yards rushing in four of its five losses last season.

The top six defensive linemen return. There are some questions in the linebacking corps, where Blakes moves from outside to the middle and Austin Moss returns from injury.

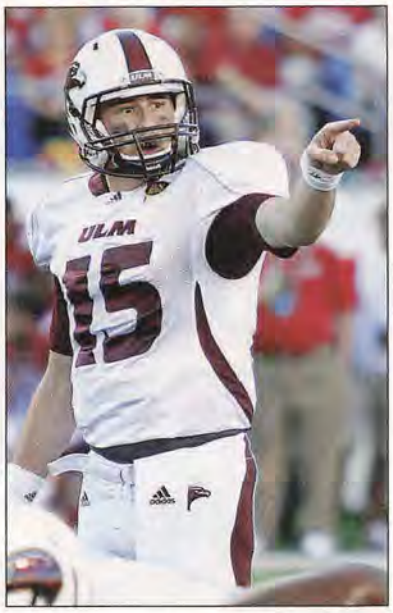
SPECIALISTS Junior kicker/punter Justin Manton made steady progress in 2012, making 5-of-9 field goals and averaging nearly 40 yards per punt. But the Warhawks' five made field goals were the third-fewest in the nation. Four ULM games went to overtime last season, where field goals often became a risky option.

FINAL ANALYSIS Injuries to arguably ULM's top six players derailed last season's Sun Belt title hopes. The Warhawks still played in their first FBS bowl, but that ended with a surprisingly lopsided 45–14 loss to Ohio in the Independence Bowl.

This season represents the best shot at a conference crown for Berry and Browning, who guided the program to its best season in two decades of FBS competition in 2012.

"I think this group is hungry. They are not arrogant, but there is a little more swagger than before," says Berry, who received a new four-year contract in the offseason. "We had to get through some injuries, and we did not end last year like we wanted. So our team doesn't like how people are talking about them. But those injuries forced other guys to play a lot, and that's led us to where we are now."

The Warhawks have pivotal home conference games against Western Kentucky and Arkansas State, both bowl teams a year ago, and a season-ending trip to rival UL Lafayette that could have conference title implications.



KOLTON BROWNING

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback (Kolton Browning) was the difference on that team. He made some amazing plays and kept drives alive."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	86	Je'Ron Hamm (Sr.)	85	Tony Cook (So.)	
WR	13	Colby Harper (Jr.)	81	Rashon Ceasar (So.)	
WR	8	**Tavarese Maye (Sr.)**	23	Kenzee Jackson (Jr.)	
LT	65	**Joseph Treadwell (Jr.)**	56	Jamal Danley (Fr.)	
LG	78	**Jon Fisher (Sr.)**	55	Jimmy Chung (Fr.)	
C	66	**Josh Allen (Sr.)**	68	Colby Mitchell (So.)	
RG	77	Ben Risenhoover (Jr.)	67	Jeremy Burton (Jr.)	
RT	75	**Demiere Burkett (Jr.)**	72	Jack Mervin (Fr.)	
TE	88	Harley Scioneaux (So.)	82	Kevin Steed (Sr.)	
QB	15	**Kolton Browning (Sr.)**	12	Brayle Brown (So.)	
RB	7	**Jyruss Edwards (Sr.)**	2	Monterrell Washington (Sr.)	

DEFENSE (9)

DE	95	Darius Lively (Jr.)	98	**Malcolm Edmond (Jr.)**	
NT	91	Kentarius Caldwell (Sr.)	76	**Gerrand Johnson (So.)**	
DE	99	**Joey Gautney (Jr.)**	18	Emanuel Jefferies (Sr.)	
OLB	90	**Ray Stovall (Jr.)**	36	Cody Robinson (So.)	
MLB	3	Cameron Blakes (Sr.)	48	Hunter Kissinger (So.)	
OLB	44	Austin Moss (Sr.)	34	Michael Johnson (So.)	
H	38	**Mitch Lane (So.)**	42	Roland Veal (Jr.)	
CB	4	**Rob'Donovan Lewis (Jr.)**	24	Trey Caldwell (So.)	
CB	14	**Vincent Eddie (Sr.)**	20	Justin Backus (Fr.)	
S	1	**Isaiah Newsome (Sr.)**	37	Preston Coleman (Sr.)	
S	10	**Cordero Smith (Jr.)**	31	Lenzy Pipkins (Fr.)	

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Justin Manton (Jr.)	KR	22	Cortney Davis (So.)
P	17	Justin Manton (Jr.)	PR	23	Kenzee Jackson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kolton Browning, 428-273-3,049-10, 29 TDs
Rushing: Kolton Browning, 146 att., 488 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Je'Ronn Hamm, 62 rec., 915 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Cordero Smith, 71
Sacks: Gerrand Johnson, 4
Interceptions: Isaiah Newsome, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UL Monroe SID

NATIONAL FORECAST **117**

SUN BELT PREDICTION **7**

South Alabama JAGUARS

JEREMÉ JONES

THE QUOTE

"I think they're doing it the right way. They were more competitive than a lot of people thought they would be. I was really impressed."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE USA lacked explosion last season, ranking last in the Sun Belt in scoring and total offense. So despite returning eight starters, USA signed plenty of potential playmakers to add spice to a bland offense. Top high school recruit Kaleb Blanchard and junior college transfers Jay Jones and Cristobal Dinham will add speed to the backfield, and sprinter Dejon Funderburk will do likewise at wide receiver.

"You can't just rely on four- and five-yard plays all game. You've got to have some 30- and 40-yard plays," coach Joey Jones says. "We didn't create enough of those last year. That was a key factor in our recruiting this year. But the No. 1 thing is that we're settled at quarterback now."

Senior quarterback Ross Metheny is now the undisputed starter after sharing time in 2012. He must improve his completion percentage (54.8) and TD-to-interception ratio (12-to-12). But Jones believes Matheny can help the offense turn the corner, along with a strong pool of tailbacks, the team's top five receivers, a deeper offensive line and the aforementioned newcomers.

3

USA has a 25–15 overall record in four years of existence, but only three road victories (none vs. an FBS opponent).

DEFENSE In a transitional year to the FBS level, USA already looked well-seasoned on defense, ranking among the best in the Sun Belt last season. Seven starters return, including three defensive backs in a stingy secondary. Kevin Sherrer, who has spent the past three seasons as Alabama's director of player development, will return to coaching as USA's new defensive coordinator. He will transition USA from a 3-4 scheme to a mostly four-man front, and nine junior college transfers will be added to bolster the experience and size of the defense.

"We were smaller than everybody last year. Opponents were three or four inches taller and 20 to 30 pounds heavier," Jones says. "We really helped ourselves by adding bigger players at every position, and we had to get older guys in there, too. I anticipate several of those (junior college transfers) starting."

Linebacker Tony Johnson, twin safeties Steffon and Steven Fuller, and numerous new defensive linemen should contribute immediately as junior college transfers.

USA also must replace graduated linebacker Jake Johnson, the Sun Belt's top tackler last season. All-conference defensive end Alex Page and linebacker Enrique Williams are among the best at their position in the league.

SPECIALISTS Scott Garber is back at punter, but placekicker is wide open after the graduation of standout Michael Chapuseaux. Redshirt freshmen Aleem Sunanon and Logan Gunn will battle true freshman signee Brandon McKee for the placekicking role. All three could get their shot during the season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The USA program, which played its first game in 2009, is now eligible for the for the Sun Belt title and a bowl bid. But it will be difficult to compete for either, unless the newcomers are fast starters. A 2–11 record last season included five losses of 10 points or less, but Jones warns that USA must move beyond moral victories.

"If our players think those close losses are suddenly going to flip into wins the next year, they are sadly mistaken," Jones says. "We have Sun Belt experience now. We've been competitive, and that's good. But now we need to win."

USA has one win over a full-fledged FBS member in its two seasons of transition to the highest division, but it could be aided by turnover in Sun Belt membership. Texas State and Georgia State will be the newcomers, instantly promoting USA's status in the league. Most teams making the FBS transition suffer during roster turnover. USA's evolution will be determined by how much the junior college transfers contribute.

OFFENSE (8)

WR	8	**Bryant Lavender (Sr.)**	6	Corey Waldon (Sr.)
WR	11	**Jeremé Jones (Jr.)**	24	T.J. Glover (Jr.)
WR	9	**Corey Besteda (Sr.)**	15	Shavarez Smith (Jr.)
LT	55	**Chris May (So.)**	76	Ucambre Williams (Jr.)
LG	72	Drew Dearman (Jr.)	51	Daniel Aust (Fr.)
C	56	Matt Calcagnini (Sr.)	66	Joseph Scelfo (Fr.)
RG	73	**Shaun Artz (Jr.)**	74	Steven Foster (Fr.)
RT	77	**Melvin Meggs (Jr.)**	75	Clay Machen (Fr.)
TE	13	**Wes Saxton (Jr.)**	12	Rush Hendricks (Jr.)
QB	2	**Ross Metheny (Sr.)**	7	Brandon Bridge (Jr.)
RB	3	Jay Jones (Jr.)	29	Kendall Houston (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

JACK	8	**Pat Moore (Sr.)**	46	Ridge James (Sr.)
NT	93	Randon Carnathan (Sr.)	67	Jesse Kelley (Jr.)
DT	90	Romelle Jones (Sr.)	99	Byron Sneed (Sr.)
DE	82	**Alex Page (Sr.)**	86	Will Thompson (Jr.)
SLB	25	**Clifton Crews (Sr.)**	6	Maleki Harris (Jr.)
MLB	28	**Enrique Williams (Sr.)**		Tony Johnson (Jr.)
WLB	38	Bryson James (Sr.)	30	Cordivido Grice (So.)
CB	4	**Darrius Morrow (Sr.)**	7	E.J. May (So.)
CB	9	**Tyrell Pearson (Sr.)**	37	Akeem Appleton (So.)
SS	3	Charles Watson (Sr.)	17	Alonzo Long (Jr.)
FS	21	Charles Harris (Sr.)	18	**Terrell Brigham (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Aleem Sunanon (Fr.)	KR	11	Jereme Jones (Jr.)
P	40	Scott Garber (Sr.)	PR	24	T.J. Glover (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ross Metheny, 345-189-2,148-12, 12 TDs

Rushing: Demetre Baker, 118 att., 595 yds., 3 TDs

Receiving: Jereme Jones, 45 rec., 513 yds., 7 TDs

Tackles: Enrique Williams, 105

Sacks: Alex Page, 6

Interceptions: Tyrell Pearson, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

South Alabama SID

Head Coach: Joey Jones
Record at School: 25-15 (4 years)
Career Record: 28-22 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Matthews
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Sherrer
Mobile, AL
Ladd-Peebles Stadium (33,471)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-5 (SUN BELT)

August		
29	Southern Utah	
September		
7	at Tulane	
14	Western Kentucky	
28	at Tennessee	
October		
5	at Troy	
19	Kent State	
26	at Texas State	
November		
2	Arkansas State	
16	at Navy	
23	UL Monroe	
30	at Georgia State	
December		
7	UL Lafayette	

2012 RESULTS (2–11, 1–7)

Sept.	1	UTSA		L	31–33
Sept.	8	Nicholls State		W	9–3
Sept.	15	at NC State		L	7–31
Sept.	22	at Mississippi State		L	10–30
Sept.	29	Troy		L	10–31
Oct.	13	at Arkansas State		L	29–36
Oct.	20	Florida Atlantic	(ot)	W	37–34
Oct.	27	at UL Monroe		L	24–38
Nov.	3	FIU		L	20–28
Nov.	10	at North Texas		L	14–24
Nov.	17	Middle Tennessee		L	12–20
Nov.	24	at UL Lafayette		L	30–52
Dec.	1	at Hawaii		L	7–23

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kaleb Blanchard, RB, Denham Springs, LA
2. Brett Sheehan, QB, Collins Hill, GA
3. Noah Armstrong, T, Moulton, AL
4. Jalen Wells, DE, Dublin, GA
5. Jay Jones, RB, Horn Lake, MS*
6. Dejon Funderburk, WR, Pensacola, FL
7. Caleb Alves, WR, Melbourne, FL
8. Cristobal Dinham, RB, Lithonia, GA*
9. Theo Rich, DL, Portal, GA*
10. Tony Johnson, LB, Sulligent, AL*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt
Scoring	18.5 ppg	10
Rushing	123.5 ypg	9
Passing	209.8 ypg	9
Total	333.4 ypg	10
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**
Scoring	29.5 ppg	7
Rushing	164.5 ypg	7
Passing	218.5 ypg	3
Total	382.9 ypg	2
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**
-12	-0.92	10

Texas State BOBCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST 115
SUN BELT PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Dennis Franchione
Record at School: 23-23 (4 years)
Career Record: 197-115-2 (27 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Conway, Mike Schultz
Defensive Coordinator: Craig Naivar
San Marcos, TX
Bobcat Stadium (30,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-5 (SUN BELT)

August	
31	at Southern Miss
September	
7	Prairie View A&M
21	at Texas Tech
28	Wyoming
October	
5	at UL Lafayette
12	ULM
19	Georgia State
26	South Alabama
November	
2	at Idaho
16	at Arkansas State
23	Western Kentucky
29	at Troy

2012 RESULTS (4-8, 2-4)

Sept.	1	at Houston	W	30–13
Sept.	8	Texas Tech	L	10–58
Sept.	22	Stephen F. Austin	W	41–37
Sept.	29	Nevada	L	21–34
Oct.	6	at New Mexico	L	14–35
Oct.	13	Idaho	W	38–7
Oct.	27	at San Jose State	L	20–31
Nov.	3	at Utah State	L	7–38
Nov.	10	Louisiana Tech	L	55–62
Nov.	17	at Navy	L	10–21
Nov.	24	at UTSA	L	31–38
Dec.	1	New Mexico State	W	66–28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jamel James, RB, Katy, TX
2. Dila Rosemond, DB, Cypress, TX
3. Brice Gunter, WR, Stephenville, TX
4. C.J. Best, RB, Smyrna, GA*
5. Tyler Jones, QB, Stephenville, TX
6. Germod Williams, S, Conroe, TX
7. Demun Mercer, WR, La Marque, TX
8. Trey Garrett, S, Huntington Beach, CA*
9. Brandon Jones, S, Santa Rosa, CA*
10. Kris Petersen, TE, Newark, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC
Scoring	28.6 ppg	5
Rushing	179.3 ypg	3
Passing	200.4 ypg	7
Total	379.8 ypg	5
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**
Scoring	33.5 ppg	4
Rushing	231.8 ypg	7
Passing	252.9 ypg	3
Total	484.8 ypg	6
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**
+10	+0.83	3

OFFENSE Texas State returns five starters on offense and will have a new quarterback as Shaun Rutherford has exhausted his eligibility after accounting for 20 touchdowns last season. Senior Tyler Arndt is the projected starter. Ardnt completed only 39.3 percent of his throws in five games last year.

Over 70 percent of last season's receiving production is back. Senior Andy Erickson developed into the top threat with 482 yards on 39 catches, both team highs. Isaiah Battle, another senior receiver, averaged 16.5 yards per catch and set a school record with a 98-yard TD reception against Stephen F. Austin.

Running back Marcus Curry is gone after combining with Rutherford for nearly 60 percent of the team's rushing yardage, so new threats must emerge. Sophomores Robert Lowe and Tim Gay averaged 10.3 and 9.5 yards per carry, respectively, on limited attempts last season, and junior Terrence Franks had five TD runs. Freshman Jamel James, a former Notre Dame pledge, and junior college transfer C.J. Best could be factors.

Texas State has to improve up front after allowing 28 sacks a year ago. Junior guard Charlie Will Tuttle, who had a team-high 60 pancake blocks last season, leads the offensive line.

446

Texas State rushed for a season-high 446 yards in its season-ending 66–28 win over New Mexico State.

DEFENSE This unit has seven starters back after forcing 26 takeaways last season, but Texas State also allowed 33.5 points and 484.8 yards per game. The 4-2-5 scheme struggled against the run and tied for the fourth-fewest sacks (12) in the FBS, so losing all-conference defensive end/linebacker Joplo Bartu hurts.

The line rotation features six seniors, including end Jordan Norfleet and nose tackle Blake McColloch (6.5 tackles for a loss in 2012). Newcomer D.J. Yendrey, a senior defensive tackle, was a two-time honorable-mention All-Mountain West selection at TCU.

Colorado State transfer Michael Orakpo, brother of NFL star Brian Orakpo, could make an impact at linebacker. He made 87 tackles for the Rams in 2011. Senior linebacker David Mayo (41 tackles in seven games) was a starter before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

Three starters are back in the secondary, the strength of the defense. Senior Xavier Daniels (66 tackles) and junior Craig Mager (four interceptions) are proven playmakers.

SPECIALISTS Will Johnson is expected to pull double duty again at placekicker and punter. The junior made 12-of-17 field goals, including a school-record 54-yarder against New Mexico State. He also averaged 41 yards per punt. Texas State also was among the national leaders in punt and kickoff returns and should be strong again with Erickson and Jafus Gaines back.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off a 6–6 campaign as an FBS independent in 2011, Texas State opened its second year under coach Dennis Franchione (in his second stint with the school) with an upset of Houston but finished 4–8 overall and 2–4 in conference play in the program's only season as a WAC member. This season the Bobcats are on the move again as they join the Sun Belt.

This year's schedule could be a challenge as Texas State will play five bowl teams, including road games against Texas Tech, New Orleans Bowl winner UL Lafayette and two-time Sun Belt champion Arkansas State. The Bobcats hope to build off last season when they had six losses to bowl-eligible teams.

Franchione is optimistic Texas State will have a breakout season after adding eight 3-star recruits (according to Rivals) and 11 junior college transfers. For the Bobcats to improve, they must answer questions at quarterback and running back and make big strides defensively.

ANDY ERICKSON

THE QUOTE

"Remember, they beat Houston last year. I've got a lot of respect for Dennis Franchione as a football coach."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**13**	**Andy Erickson (Sr.)**	80	Jafus Gaines (So.)
WR	6	Isaiah Battle (Sr.)	9	Deche Milburn (Jr.)
WR	**81**	**Brandon Smith (So.)**	1	Benjamin Ijah (Jr.)
LT	**53**	**Devin Baker (Sr.)**	73	Hayden Lambert (So.)
LG	**72**	**Charlie Will Tuttle (Jr.)**	75	Mike Yoder (Sr.)
C	**66**	**Matt Freeman (So.)**	50	Collin Fissell (Jr.)
RG	77	Felix Romero (Fr.)	76	Ryan Melton (Fr.)
RT	65	Adrian Bellard (So.)	59	Andrew Sims (Sr.)
TE	82	Kris Petersen (Jr.)	85	Bradley Miller (Jr.)
QB	12	Tyler Arndt (Sr.)	2	Jordan Moore (Fr.)
TB	28	Robert Lowe (So.)	37	Tim Gay (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

LE	**97**	**Jordan Norfleet (Sr.)**	99	Thomas Evans (Sr.)
NT	**91**	**Blake McColloch (Sr.)**	**98**	**Kamu Taulelei (Sr.)**
DT	52	D.J. Yendrey (Sr.)	94	Darius Hood (So.)
RE	5	Jamie Clavell-Head (Sr.)	55	Michael Odiari (Jr.)
LB	1	Michael Orakpo (Jr.)	45	Damion McMiller (Sr.)
LB	**43**	**David Mayo (Sr.)**	40	Jerrid Jeter-Gilmon (So.)
WS	39	Chad Moncure (Jr.)	14	Martel Summers (So.)
CB	**18**	**Xavier Daniels (Sr.)**	26	Phillip Benning (Sr.)
CB	**25**	**Craig Mager (Jr.)**	22	David Mims II (So.)
FS	10	Aaron Matthews (Sr.)	17	Damani Alexee (So.)
S	**8**	**Justin Iwuji (Sr.)**	11	Brandon Jones (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Will Johnson (Jr.)	**KR**	80	Jafus Gaines (So.)
P	38	Will Johnson (Jr.)	**PR**	13	Andy Erickson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Arndt, 56-22-208-3, 1 TD
Rushing: Tim Gay, 27 att., 279 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Andy Erickson, 39 rec., 482 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Xavier Daniels, 66
Sacks: Blake McColloch, 2
Interceptions: Craig Mager, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Rob Holt

NATIONAL FORECAST **106**

SUN BELT PREDICTION **5**

Troy TROJANS

ERIC THOMAS

THE QUOTE

"I would think they'd be back in the hunt. They were a solid team but not special. They are used to being special."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	3	**Eric Thomas (Sr.)**	84	Felton Payton (Sr.)
WR	89	Chris Williams (Sr.)	86	Brandon Brooks (Fr.)
WR	16	Chandler Worthy (Jr.)	12	K.D. Edenfield (So.)
WR	17	B.J. Chitty (Jr.)	18	Bryan Holmes (So.)
LT	75	**Terrence Jones (Jr.)**	72	Tyler Lassiter (Fr.)
LG	67	Jimmie Arnold (Sr.)	60	Caleb Carbine (Jr.)
C	50	Evan McKissack (Sr.)	71	Luke Lawrence (Fr.)
RG	69	Dalton Bennett (So.)	70	Tommy Stephens (Jr.)
RT	78	Chris Hawkins (Jr.)	68	Antonio Garcia (Fr.)
QB	6	**Corey Robinson (Sr.)**	7	Deon Anthony (Sr.)
RB	11	Khary Franklin (Jr.)	28	Daron White (So.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	54	Marty Stadom (Sr.)	51	Deon Lee (So.)
DT	98	Lonnie Gosha (So.)	91	Shermane TeArt (Sr.)
NT	92	Xavier Melton (Sr.)	97	D.J. Johnson (So.)
DE	33	**Tyler Roberts (So.)**	79	Jadarius Garner (So.)
MLB	35	Mark Wilson (Jr.)	47	Eli Canton (Jr.)
WLB	23	W. Coleman-Dancer (Sr.)	20	Terris Lewis (Fr.)
NB	11	Jeremy Spikner (So.)	21	Shaq Beverly (So.)
CB	25	Chris Davis (So.)	40	Josh Burnham (So.)
CB	37	Jacquez Young (Jr.)	34	Ethan Davis (Jr.)
SS	7	**Chris Pickett (Sr.)**	29	JaQuadrian Lewis (Fr.)
FS	1	Camren Hudson (Sr.)	43	Montres Kitchens (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	21	Will Scott (Sr.)	KR	16 Chandler Worthy (Jr.)
P	21	Will Scott (Sr.)	PR	18 Bryan Holmes (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Corey Robinson, 389-257-3,121-9, 12 TDs

Rushing: Deon Anthony, 82 att., 390 yds., 8 TDs

Receiving: Eric Thomas, 55 rec., 667 yds., 7 TDs

Tackles: Chris Pickett, 61

Sacks: Tyler Roberts, 2; Marty Stadom, 2

Interceptions: None

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Troy SID

OFFENSE If anything can help the Trojans rebound from two straight losing seasons — a first in coach Larry Blakeney's 22 years — it's the strong arm of Corey Robinson. The senior enters his fourth season as the starter as the nation's active leader in passing attempts (1,402), completions (894) and yardage (10,258), and he's the Sun Belt's all-time leader in completions and yardage. Injuries kept Robinson on the sideline temporarily last year, but backup Deon Anthony completed 70 percent of his passes with nine scores in only 113 attempts. Quarterback is not a concern.

The problems lie elsewhere. The top three running backs are gone, and Anthony (390 yards) was the team's second-leading rusher as the backup quarterback. The Trojans threw for almost twice as many yards as they ran for last year, and that was with the solid (and now departed) Shawn Southward taking handoffs. With converted 5'8" wideout Khary Franklin penciled in as the starting running back, look for the Trojans to throw to the backs even more this year.

16

Troy has lost 16 games over the last two seasons — the most in any two-year stretch of Larry Blakeney's 22 years at the school.

Robinson does have a favorite target returning in Eric Thomas, who caught 55 passes last year. Blakeney is high on Chandler Worthy, a potential breakout performer in 2013.

Another big concern lies up front, where new position coach Jim Dye will have a new-look offensive line. Dye hopes to solve the issues on the left side of the line — which protects Robinson's blind side — by shifting Terrence Jones, the starter at right tackle last year, to left tackle.

DEFENSE There is work to be done, with the 2012 Trojans ranking last in the league in total defense and interceptions (six) while recording only 13 sacks.

New defensive coordinator Wayne Bolt, who is back for his second stint with Troy, hopes to shake things up — and it starts in the front six in the Trojans' 4-2-5 scheme. Tyler Roberts is making the move from outside linebacker to end, where his blitzing abilities will be a plus. Tackle Shermane TeArt, who started the first five games last season, is back from injury, which should help the run defense. Mark Wilson, who emerged late last season, will be the starter at middle linebacker.

The secondary needs to show improvement, and it should be able to do so with several experienced hands coming back. Safety Chris Pickett, the team's top returning tackler, missed much of spring practice with an injury, but he should be ready to go in the fall. Camren Hudson, who started three games, is the other safety. Cornerback Chris Davis was second on the team with five pass breakups. Zach Miller, who started every game at cornerback, is not expected back due to academics.

SPECIALISTS The Trojans' kicking game is as solid as any in the Sun Belt, with Will Scott hitting 17-of-21 field goals and averaging 41.0 yards per punt last year. Worthy's quickness makes him dangerous as a return man. He averaged 22.0 yards per kickoff return in 2012.

FINAL ANALYSIS Blakeney has 169 career wins at Troy, more than the rest of the current Sun Belt coaches combined at their respective schools. But the last two seasons have been very un-Trojan-like, especially after Troy had won or shared the league title the previous five years. Troy surrendered 29 or more points nine times in 2012 and was last in the league in red zone defense, prompting a retooling of the defensive staff and scheme.

With Robinson's arm, the Trojans will be a threat on every offensive possession, but they won't be in title contention unless the defense makes a quantum leap forward.

Head Coach: Larry Blakeney
Record at School: 169-98-1 (22 years)
Career Record: 169-98-1 (22 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kenny Edenfield
Defensive Coordinator: Wayne Bolt
Troy, AL
Veterans Memorial Stadium (30,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 4-3 (SUN BELT)

August	
31	UAB
September	
7	Savannah State
12	at Arkansas State
21	at Mississippi State
28	at Duke
October	
5	South Alabama
12	at Georgia State
26	at Western Kentucky
31	UL Monroe
November	
7	at UL Lafayette
16	at Ole Miss
29	Texas State

2012 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Sept.	1	at UAB	W	39–29
Sept.	8	UL Lafayette	L	24–37
Sept.	15	Mississippi State	L	24–30
Sept.	22	at North Texas	W	14–7
Sept.	29	at South Alabama	W	31–10
Oct.	11	Western Kentucky	L	26–31
Oct.	20	FIU	W	38–37
Oct.	27	at Florida Atlantic	L	27–34
Nov.	3	at Tennessee	L	48–55
Nov.	10	Navy	W	41–31
Nov.	17	Arkansas State	L	34–41
Nov.	24	at Middle Tennessee	L	21–24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Keion Payne, DB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL*
2. Jonathan Boring, OL, Lexington, SC
3. David Gross, OL, Montgomery, AL
4. Sam Lebbie, LB, Hyattsville, MD
5. Tim Longmire, ATH, Tallahassee, FL
6. Cardell Lue, DB, Carrollton, TX
7. Brandon Silvers, QB, Gulf Shores, AL
8. Terris Lewis, LB, Linden, AL
9. Rishad Goode, DB, Madison, AL
10. Jamal Stadom, DE, Melbourne, FL

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	30.6 ppg	4	52
Rushing	167.3 ypg	6	56
Passing	331.5 ypg	1	8
Total	498.8 ypg	1	11
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	30.5 ppg	7	82
Rushing	185.2 ypg	7	82
Passing	258.4 ypg	6	94
Total	443.6 ypg	9	96
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-7	-0.58	9	96

Western Kentucky HILLTOPPERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 91
SUN BELT PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Bobby Petrino
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 75-26 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Brohm
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Holt
Bowling Green, KY
Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium (22,113)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-2 (SUN BELT)

August		
31	vs. Kentucky #	
September		
7	at Tennessee	
14	at South Alabama	
21	Morgan State	
28	Navy	
October		
3	at UL Monroe	
15	UL Lafayette	
26	Troy	
November		
2	at Georgia State	
9	at Army	
23	at Texas State	
30	Arkansas State	

#Nashville, TN

2012 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Sept. 1	Austin Peay		W	49-10
Sept. 8	at Alabama		L	0-35
Sept. 15	at Kentucky	(ot)	W	32-31
Sept. 22	Southern Miss		W	42-17
Sept. 29	at Arkansas State		W	26-13
Oct. 11	at Troy		W	31-26
Oct. 20	UL Monroe	(ot)	L	42-43
Oct. 27	at FIU		W	14-6
Nov. 1	Middle Tennessee		L	29-34
Nov. 10	Florida Atlantic		L	28-37
Nov. 17	at UL Lafayette		L	27-31
Nov. 24	North Texas		W	25-24
Dec. 26	vs. Central Michigan #		L	21-24

#Little Caesars Pizza Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Maurice Bennett, DT, Scooba, MS*
2. Connor Popeck, OL, Olive Branch, MS*
3. Joe Fennell, OL, Ft. Myers, FL
4. Donald Rocker, OL, Jacksonville, FL
5. Raphael Cox, DT, Cedar Hills, TX*
6. Devante Duclos, LB, Miami, FL
7. Todd Porter, QB, O'Fallon, IL
8. Drew Davis, LB, Madison, AL
9. Aaron Jackson, WR, Frankfort, KY
10. Taywan Taylor, WR, Louisville, KY

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	28.2 ppg	5	68
Rushing	181.7 ypg	3	45
Passing	205.2 ypg	9	90
Total	386.9 ypg	7	74
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	25.5 ppg	2	50
Rushing	138.4 ypg	1	34
Passing	209.8 ypg	2	34
Total	348.2 ypg	1	26
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-1	-0.08	5	63

OFFENSE New Western Kentucky coach Bobby Petrino has plenty of threats from multiple sets with the Hilltoppers, who feature one of the most dynamic offensive weapons in college football in senior running back Antonio Andrews. Last season, Andrews led the nation with 3,161 all-purpose yards, making him and Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders, the 1988 Heisman Trophy winner, the only players in FBS history to eclipse 3,000 all-purpose yards in a season.

Kawaun Jakes, who started 44 games in the last four years, graduated, leaving the quarterback job to Brandon Doughty. A junior, Doughty passed for 314 yards in the Spring Game and was a starter two years ago before being injured. He emerged ahead of James Mauro and DaMarcus Smith, a former UCF signee who hasn't played in two seasons. Top wide receiving threat Willie McNeal is a veteran who caught six touchdown passes in 2012. Sophomore Austin Aikens has big-play ability, averaging 27.1 yards on only eight catches.

Tight end is a focal point of Petrino's offense, and the position is well-stocked. Former wide receiver Tyler Higbee is long and lanky with good hands, while Mitchell Henry and Tim Gorski are dependable.

Three players with a combined 80 starts over three seasons return to the line — left tackle Cameron Clemmons, left guard Luis Polanco and center Sean Conway. Stepping in at right tackle is senior Ed Hazelett, a load at 6'8" and 324 pounds.

5

Five of Bobby Petrino's teams have led their respective leagues in total offense; the other three ranked second (Arkansas, 2010), third (Arkansas, 2009) and fourth (Arkansas, 2008).

DEFENSE It's feast or famine under new coordinator Nick Holt, who had similar gigs at USC and Washington. He implements an aggressive and attacking style from the basic 4-3 set.

The feast part is the return of all four defensive backs and two of three linebackers. Strong safety Kiante Young is a tackling machine who recorded 83 stops a year ago. Free safety Jonathan Dowling, a first-team all-league pick, had six interceptions — including three in a win at Kentucky — to tie for fifth in the country. On the corners, Tyree Robinson has 33 career starts, while Cam Thomas led the team in pass breakups.

Two-time all-league middle linebacker Andrew Jackson has consecutive 100-plus tackle seasons and is a candidate for recognition as the league's top defensive player. Xavius Boyd is back after having at least five tackles in 11 games last season.

The entire front departed, leaving five returnees who combined to start four games in 2012. Ends Calvin Washington and Gavin Rocker flashed some playmaking ability last season in limited duty. Junior college transfers Maurice Bennett and Raphael Cox need to be quick fixes.

SPECIALISTS Punter Hendrix Brakefield led the Sun Belt at 42.1 yards per punt, while Garrett Schwettmann is back after making 10-of-13 field goals as a true freshman. The return game is in good shape with Andrews, who finished in the top 20 nationally in both punt and kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Western Kentucky made a big splash when it hired Petrino to replace Willie Taggart, who parlayed the school's first trip to a bowl game into the head coaching position at South Florida.

Petrino sees the WKU opportunity as a step in rehabilitating his career after departing Arkansas in disgrace for non-football (and highly publicized) indiscretions. He might not be the most popular guy, but he can coach football, especially offense. With Petrino and offensive coordinator Jeff Brohm running the show, the Hilltoppers should feature one of the top offenses in the Sun Belt. If the defense cooperates, Western can challenge for the title in its final season in the league.

There will be lots of eyes — locally and nationally — on how Petrino's team fares, and how he conducts his business in the process.

ANTONIO ANDREWS

Paul Levy

THE QUOTE

"Bobby Petrino can coach. He'll make a real impact on this conference. Coaching. Developing. He's got it all. Just very solid."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	10	Willie McNeal (Jr.)	2	Boe Brand (Jr.)
WR	4	Rico Brown (Jr.)	85	Austin Aikens (So.)
LT	52	**Cameron Clemmons (Jr.)**	76	Forrest Lamp (So.)
LG	63	**Luis Polanco (Sr.)**	73	Kyle Jones (Fr.)
C	65	**Sean Conway (Sr.)**	70	Max Halpin (So.)
RG	68	Cliff Burns (Sr.)	79	Delryn Wilson (So.)
RT	60	Ed Hazelett (Sr.)	62	Darrell Williams (So.)
TE	80	Mitchell Henry (Jr.)	82	Tyler Higbee (So.)
QB	12	Brandon Doughty (Jr.)	7	DaMarcus Smith (So.)
FB	32	**Kadeem Jones (Sr.)**	42	Nick Baisch (Sr.)
RB	5	**Antonio Andrews (Sr.)**	33	Leon Allen (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	88	Gavin Rocker (So.)	16	T.J. Smith (Jr.)
DT	95	Raphael Cox (Jr.)	94	Bryan Shorter (So.)
DT	96	Maurice Bennett (So.)	92	James Hervey (Sr.)
DE	91	Calvin Washington (Sr.)	53	Julian Leslie (Fr.)
OLB	13	**Xavius Boyd (Sr.)**	25	Chuck Franks (Sr.)
MLB	4	**Andrew Jackson (Sr.)**	17	Daqual Randall (So.)
OLB	40	Bar'ee Boyd (Sr.)	6	Devante Duclos (Fr.)
CB	19	Cam Thomas (Jr.)	17	Dalton Patterson (So.)
CB	22	**Tyree Robinson (Sr.)**	26	Brett Harrington (Sr.)
SS	29	**Kiante Young (Sr.)**	35	Darryl Gilchrist (Sr.)
FS	1	**Jonathan Dowling (Jr.)**	21	**Arius Wright (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Hendrix Brakefield (Sr.)	KR	5	Antonio Andrews (Sr.)
P	56	G. Schwettmann (So.)	PR	5	Antonio Andrews (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: James Mauro, 18-12-172-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Antonio Andrews, 304 att., 1,728 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Willie McNeal, 43 rec., 556 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Andrew Jackson, 122
Sacks: Bar'ee Boyd 3.5
Interceptions: Jonathan Dowling, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Army

BLACK KNIGHTS

RAYMOND MAPLES

THE QUOTE

"Good preparation is the key to playing Army. Just have to get your kids focussed that week in practice."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**81**	**Patrick Laird (Sr.)**	4	Ejay Tucker (Sr.)
WR	**21**	**Chevaughn Lawrence (Jr.)**	2	Anthony Stephens (Sr.)
LT	75	Zach Reichert (Sr.)	55	Nick Bennett (Jr.)
LG	**70**	**Steve Shumaker (Jr.)**	77	John Szott (Sr.)
C	**52**	**Ryan Powis (Jr.)**	51	Todd McDonald (Jr.)
RG	54	Matt Hugenberg (So.)	74	Richard Rainey (Sr.)
RT	**78**	**Michael Kime (Sr.)**	64	Dan Whitaker (Sr.)
QB	11	A.J. Schurr (So.)	3	Angel Santiago (Jr.)
FB	**26**	**Larry Dixon (Jr.)**	45	Hayden Tippett (Sr.)
RB	6	Trenton Turrentine (Jr.)	27	Stephen Fraser (Jr.)
RB	**1**	**Raymond Maples (Sr.)**	31	Terry Baggett (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	49	James Kelly (Jr.)	34	Jarrett Mackey (Sr.)
DT	**99**	**Robert Kough (Jr.)**	54	Joe Drummond (Jr.)
DT	98	Richard Glover (Jr.)	93	Mike Ugenyi (Jr.)
DE	36	Holt Zalneraitis (Sr.)		Dalton Mendenhall (So.)
OLB	10	Gino DeBartolo (Jr.)	55	Colin Linkul (Jr.)
MLB	45	Colby Miller (Sr.)	40	Tyler McLees (So.)
ROV	**23**	**Alex Meier (So.)**	29	Thomas Holloway (Sr.)
CB	16	Lamar Johnson-Harris (Jr.)	4	Marques Avery (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Chris Carnegie (So.)**	21	Joey Giovanello (So.)
S	9	Hayden Pierce (Jr.)	26	Shaquille Tolbert (So.)
S	**6**	**Geoffrey Bacon (Jr.)**	**30**	**B. Fusilier-Jeffires (So.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Dan Grochowski (So.)	**KR**	18	Julian Crockett (Sr.)
P	80	Alex Tardieu (So.)	**PR**	13	Jon Crucitti (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: A.J. Schurr, 18-8-130-0, 2 TDs

Rushing: Raymond Maples, 223 att., 1,215 yds., 2 TDs

Receiving: Chevaughn Lawrence, 21 rec., 357 yds., 0 TDs

Tackles: Geoffrey Bacon, 136

Sacks: Richard Glover, 2

Interceptions: Justin Trimble, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE Coach Rich Ellerson did not have to concern himself with the quarterback position in his first four seasons at West Point. Trent Steelman was a four-year starter who led the Black Knights to their first bowl since the Clinton administration and re-wrote much of the Army record book. With Steelman gone, four quarterbacks got a look in the spring. Sophomore A.J. Schurr has the edge, if only a slight one, heading into fall camp. Schurr played in six games last season, rushing for 47 yards on 12 attempts and throwing for 130 yards and two touchdowns. Junior Angel Santiago, who started one game as a freshman in 2011, is the most experienced of the returning quarterbacks.

While Army isn't about to abandon the triple-option, the coaching staff tinkered with the shotgun during the spring. The experiment is an acknowledgement that the Black Knights need to be a little more productive in the passing game. Look for junior receiver Chevaughn Lawrence to improve on his team-leading 21 catches.

Raymond Maples was productive on the ground last season with a team-high 1,215 yards rushing. Though he spent the spring recovering from ankle surgery, Maples should again be the main cog. Trenton Turrentine and Terry Baggett were productive in limited work last season. They will be a bigger part of the offense. Larry Dixon is a 240-pound bull at fullback.

11.4

Army has averaged only 11.4 points per game during its 11-game losing streak to Navy.

Junior center Ryan Powis anchors a line that has two other returning starters in tackle Michael Kime and guard Steve Shumaker. Kime (knee) should be ready to go for his senior season after sitting out the spring. Shumaker, a junior, could line up on either side.

DEFENSE Injuries and experiments made for a lot of spring shuffling. Yet, the hope is that younger players who saw extensive playing time last season are ready to be more productive. It can't get much worse. The Black Knights ranked 118th in pass efficiency defense, 117th against the run and forced only 14 turnovers (tied for 107th) last season.

Junior Geoffrey Bacon moved to free safety during the spring after leading the Black Knights in tackles (136) last season as a linebacker. Fingers are crossed that rover Alex Meier (ACL) will be fully recovered by the opener after finishing third in tackles as a freshman in 2012. Robert Kough and Richard Glover combined for 17 tackles for a loss on a line that does not lack experience.

Bacon's presence in the secondary should help a unit that had two freshman starters last season. Brandon Fusilier-Jeffires, held out in the spring due to academics, could play safety or linebacker after finishing second to Bacon in tackles, with 88. Corner Chris Carnegie started the last 10 games and was fifth on the team in tackles.

SPECIALISTS Dan Grochowski needs to be more consistent after nailing 10-of-16 field goal attempts as a freshman. Alex Tardieu could be the new punter. The return game has rarely provided a spark in recent seasons, and 2012 was no exception. Julian Crockett and Stephen Fraser could again see action on kick returns after combining to average 19.7 yards last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS There are a few new faces and several revamped job descriptions on the coaching staff. Still, the most anticipated change will be at quarterback. An occasional shotgun look will allow Schurr to utilize his strong arm and give opposing defenses something to think about beyond the option. The defense has nowhere to go but up, which it will do if enough of the young players who were forced into action in 2012 emerge as difference-makers in 2013. If they fail to do so, it will not matter how Schurr — or any other quarterback — performs.

Head Coach: Rich Ellerson
Record at School: 17–32 (4 years)
Career Record: 77–73 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ian Shields
Defensive Co-Coordinators: Payam Saadat, Chris Smeland
West Point, NY
Michie Stadium (38,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9

August	
31	Morgan State
September	
7	at Ball State
14	Stanford
21	Wake Forest
28	vs. Louisiana Tech #
October	
5	at Boston College
12	Eastern Michigan
19	at Temple
November	
2	at Air Force
9	Western Kentucky
30	at Hawaii
December	
14	vs. Navy %

#Dallas %Philadelphia

2012 RESULTS (2-10)

Sept.	8	at San Diego State	L	7–42
Sept.	15	Northern Illinois	L	40–41
Sept.	22	at Wake Forest	L	37–49
Sept.	29	Stony Brook	L	3–23
Oct.	6	Boston College	W	34–31
Oct.	13	Kent State	L	17–31
Oct.	20	at Eastern Michigan	L	38–48
Oct.	27	Ball State	L	22–30
Nov.	3	Air Force	W	41–21
Nov.	10	at Rutgers	L	7–28
Nov.	17	Temple	L	32–63
Dec.	8	vs. Navy %	L	13–17

%Philadelphia

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ahmad Bradshaw, QB, Chicago, IL
2. Jared Valner, WR, Los Altos, CA
3. Seth Combs, LB, Louisville, KY
4. Andrew McLean, DE, Louisville, CO
5. Egbezien Obiomon, RB, Cypress, TX
6. Elijah Anglin, LB, Detroit, MI
7. Mark Nordhausen, DE, Lakewood Ranch, FL
8. Ben Okun, CB, Newbury Park, CA
9. Nehemiah Brown, RB, San Diego, CA
10. Jacob Taylor, RB, Lake Arrowhead, CA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	24.3 ppg	87
Rushing	369.8 ypg	1
Passing	66.4 ypg	120
Total	436.3 ypg	39
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	35.3 ppg	103
Rushing	232.3 ypg	117
Passing	195.0 ypg	22
Total	427.3 ypg	85
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-8	-0.67	98

CSM/AP Images

BYU COUGARS

Head Coach: Bronco Mendenhall
Record at School: 74-29 (8 years)
Career Record: 74-29 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Anae
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Howell
Provo, UT
Lavell Edwards Stadium (63,470)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5

August	
31	at Virginia
September	
7	Texas
21	Utah
27	Middle Tennessee
October	
4	at Utah State
12	Georgia Tech
19	at Houston
26	Boise State
November	
9	at Wisconsin
16	Idaho State
23	at Notre Dame
30	at Nevada

2012 RESULTS (8-5)

Aug.	30	Washington State	W	30–6
Sept.	8	Weber State	W	45–13
Sept.	15	at Utah	L	21–24
Sept.	20	at Boise State	L	6–7
Sept.	28	Hawaii	W	47–0
Oct.	5	Utah State	W	6–3
Oct.	13	Oregon State	L	24–42
Oct.	20	at Notre Dame	L	14–17
Oct.	27	at Georgia Tech	W	41–17
Nov.	10	Idaho	W	52–13
Nov.	17	at San Jose State	L	14–20
Nov.	24	at New Mexico State	W	50–14
Dec.	20	vs. San Diego State #	W	23–6

#Poinsettia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brayden Kearsley, OL, Aloha, OR
2. De'Ondre Wesley, OL, Pleasant Hill, CA*
3. Trenton Trammell, DB, Oakland, CA*
4. Trajan Pili, LB, Las Vegas, NV
5. Michael Davis, WR, Glendale, CA
6. Billy Green, QB, Woodway, WA
7. Tim Duran, OL, Puyallup, WA*
8. Sam Lee, DB, Brandywine, MD*
9. Kalolu Utu, DL Upolu, Samoa*
10. Keegan Hicks, OL, South Jordan, UT

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	28.7 ppg	64
Rushing	153.2 ypg	64
Passing	247.2 ypg	50
Total	400.4 ypg	60
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	14.0 ppg	3
Rushing	86.9 ypg	2
Passing	179.2 ypg	10
Total	266.1 ypg	3
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-3	-0.23	76

OFFENSE BYU coach Bronco Mendenhall overhauled his entire offensive staff following a disappointing performance in 2012, rehiring former coordinator Robert Anae, who had been at Arizona the past two years, and adding four new assistants.

Quarterback Taysom Hill's freshman season ended when he sustained a major knee injury in the late stages of a victory over Utah State in early October, when a miscommunication resulted in a standard running play, rather than a kneel-down. That episode fit into BYU's season of quarterbacking controversy, as three players started at least two games each. Two of those players graduated. In his two starts in 2012, Hill proved to be a capable passer and runner who should thrive in the fast-paced scheme that Anae learned from coach Rich Rodriguez at Arizona.

Hill's chances of success improved when Cody Hoffman chose to remain at BYU for his senior season. Hoffman, who's 6'4" and adept at catching the ball in traffic, ranked 10th in the country with 100 catches for 1,248 yards and 11 touchdowns.

A midseason injury to starter Michael Alisa gave running back Jamaal Williams a greater opportunity as a freshman, and he took advantage of it. Williams rushed for 775 yards and 12 touchdowns while also showing good receiving skills.

26.5

BYU's opponents converted only 26.5 percent of their third downs in 2012, the best rate in the country. Georgia Tech went 0-for-10 vs. BYU.

Questions remain about the offensive line, with four junior college transfers joining the team in August. Left tackle Ryker Mathews will anchor the line after starting 13 games as a freshman.

DEFENSE At this time last year, nobody figured that replacing Ezekiel "Ziggy" Ansah would be the BYU defense's biggest issue in 2013. Only when Eathyn Manumaleuna was injured in the middle of the season did Ansah become a starter and develop into one of the NFL's most intriguing prospects. Ansah helped BYU's defense rank No. 3 in the country, allowing 266.1 yards per game.

Like Hoffman on offense, Kyle Van Noy improved BYU's defensive outlook tremendously by returning for his senior season. He recorded 13 sacks and 22 tackles for a loss as a junior.

BYU expected junior college transfer Trenton Trammell to solidify its secondary, but he was lost for the season to a knee injury on the first day of spring drills. Jordan Johnson, who broke up 15 passes in 2012, is entrenched at the other corner. BYU's safeties are outstanding. Daniel Sorensen ranked second on the team in tackles, while intercepting three passes and forcing two fumbles. Craig Bills, known for his aggressiveness, emerged in the second half of the season.

SPECIALISTS BYU's longest successful field goal was only 35 yards in 2012. Justin Sorensen was bothered by injuries and made only 6-of-12 field goals. He expects to be healthy and have a much better senior season. The Cougars must replace star punter Riley Stephenson. Scott Arellano, who averaged 40.6 yards in junior college, won the job in the spring. JD Falslev is an outstanding return man. He averaged 26.0 yards on kickoff returns and 9.5 yards on punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Staging a slideshow to illustrate his points, Mendenhall outlined BYU's success on and off the field in his first eight seasons with a Signing Day news conference that served as an impassioned defense of his program. Of course, BYU's most pressing issue is upgrading the offense. Its ineffectiveness kept the Cougars from capitalizing on the best defensive performance in school history.

Matching last season's 8–5 record will be a challenge in 2013, even if Anae's fast-tempo offense is more productive. The Cougars are facing what Mendenhall labels their toughest schedule ever, with home games against Boise State and Texas and visits to Wisconsin and Notre Dame.

KYLE VAN NOY

THE QUOTE

"You try to use your speed and get an isolation down the field on the perimeter, because it's tough to pound the ball on them."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	2	**Cody Hoffman (Sr.)**	10	Mitch Mathews (So.)
WR	17	Skyler Ridley (Sr.)	1	**Ross Apo (Jr.)**
WR	12	JD Falslev (Sr.)	88	Eric Thornton (So.)
LT	72	**Ryker Mathews (So.)**	75	Brad Wilcox (Fr.)
LG	73	**Solomone Kafu (Jr.)**	52	Tui Crichton (So.)
C	70	Terrance Alletto (So.)	79	**Manaaki Vaitai (Sr.)**
RG	67	Kyle Johnson (Fr.)	74	Brock Stringham (Jr.)
RT	77	Michael Yeck (Jr.)	65	Cole Jones (Fr.)
TE	19	Brett Thompson (Jr.)	82	**Kaneakua Friel (Sr.)**
QB	4	Taysom Hill (So.)	15	Ammon Olsen (So.)
RB	21	**Jamaal Williams (So.)**	42	Michael Alisa (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4)

LE	90	Bronson Kaufusi (So.)	94	Michael Doman (Fr.)
NT	55	Eathyn Manumaleuna (Sr.)	99	Marques Johnson (Jr.)
RE	44	Remington Peck (So.)	95	Logan Taele (So.)
SLB	2	**Spencer Hadley (Sr.)**	5	Alani Fua (Jr.)
MLB	41	Uani Unga (Sr.)	98	Toloa'i Ho Ching (Fr.)
BLB	45	Tyler Beck (Sr.)	44	Manoa Pikula (So.)
WLB	3	**Kyle Van Noy (Sr.)**	43	Jherremya Leuta-Douyere (So.)
CB	6	**Jordan Johnson (Jr.)**	16	Adam Hogan (Sr.)
CB	32	Mike Hague (Sr.)	33	Jacob Hannemann (Fr.)
SS	9	**Daniel Sorensen (Sr.)**	30	Michael Wadsworth (So.)
FS	20	Craig Bills (Jr.)	19	Blake Morgan (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Justin Sorensen (Sr.)	KR	12	JD Falslev (Sr.)
P	26	Scott Arellano (Jr.)	PR	12	JD Falslev (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taysom Hill, 71-42-425-2, 4 TDs
Rushing: Jamaal Williams, 166 att., 775 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Cody Hoffman, 100 rec., 1,248 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Daniel Sorensen, 68
Sacks: Kyle Van Noy, 13
Interceptions: Daniel Sorensen, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Boyd Ivey/Icon SMI

Idaho VANDALS

NAJEE LOVETT

Boyd Ivey/Icon SMI

THE QUOTE

"This is a tough spot for a first-time head coach. Paul Petrino better have some patience. It's going to take a while."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	87	Roman Runner (Sr.)	83	Deon Watson (Fr.)
WR	2	**Najee Lovett (Sr.)**	88	Maurice Trotter (Sr.)
WR	19	**Jahrie Level (Jr.)**	15	Marquan Major (So.)
LT	60	**Cody Elenz (So.)**	63	Calvin White (Fr.)
LG	55	**Dallas Sandberg (So.)**	79	Spencer Beale (Jr.)
C	74	**Mike Marboe (Jr.)**	79	Spencer Beale (Jr.)
RG	70	Nick Van Rotz (Sr.)	69	Larry Dugan (Sr.)
RT	78	Jesse Davis (Jr.)	67	Mason Woods (Fr.)
TE	86	**Mike LaGrone (Sr.)**	85	**Clayton Homme (Sr.)**
QB	11	Chad Chalich (Fr.)	12	Taylor Davis (Sr.)
RB	24	Jerrel Brown (Jr.)	21	Kris Olugbode (Jr.)

DEFENSE (2)

R	43	Quinton Bradley (So.)	94	Marius Burgsmueller (Jr.
N	95	Ryan Edwards (So.)	90	Karel Kearney (Jr.)
T	91	Vince Keener (Sr.)	90	Karel Kearney (Jr.)
E	40	**Maxx Forde (Jr.)**	93	Matt Neal (Fr.)
WLB	8	Eric Tuipuloto (Jr.)	22	James Randall (So.)
MLB	41	Juan Martinez (Jr.)	39	Matt Willis (Sr.)
SLB	23	Marc Millan (Jr.)	46	Russell Siavii (Fr.)
CB	2	Bradley Njoku (Jr.)	4	Jayshawn Jordan (So.)
CB	28	Solomon Dixon (So.)	20	Christian Whitehead (Sr.)
SS	7	Trey Williams (Sr.)	21	Austin DeCoud (Fr.)
FS	3	**D'Mario Carter (Sr.)**	30	Tom Hennessey (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Austin Rehkow (Fr.)	**KR**	Dezmon Epps (Jr.)
P	Trent Cowan (Fr.)	**PR**	Dezmon Epps (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Davis, 70-38-330-4, 3 TDs
Rushing: James Baker, 95 att., 395 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Najee Lovett, 50 att., 548 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Bradley Njoku, 43
Sacks: QuayShawne Buckley, 4; Maxx Forde, 4
Interceptions: Solomon Dixon, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE New coach Paul Petrino will be asked to resurrect an offense that has been brutal the past two seasons. Idaho managed only 18 offensive touchdowns in 12 games last season and scored one or fewer touchdowns in seven games.

Petrino's most important decision will be selecting a starting quarterback. Senior Taylor Davis has been inconsistent in his two years of action, so redshirt freshmen Chad Chalich and Austin DeCoud will be given a chance to win the job, as will transfer Anthony Neyer. Two quarterbacks join the program in the fall, too.

Whoever does win the job will have some proven targets. Najee Lovett (50 catches, six touchdowns) and Jahrie Level (46, two) return at wide receiver, while tight end Mike LaGrone also is back.

James Baker, who rushed for 395 yards in 2012, is the top running back returning, but he could be pushed aside by junior college transfers Kris Olugbode and Jerrel Brown. Olugbode rushed for 1,699 yards and 19 touchdowns last season at City College of San Francisco. Brown is a bigger back (6'0", 220) who should be effective in short-yardage situations.

3

Idaho rushed for only three touchdowns last season, tying Tulane for the fewest in the nation.

An experienced offensive line gives Petrino hope, although tackle Jordan Johnson's legal troubles forced coaches to move starting defensive tackle Jesse Davis to the offensive line. Center Mike Marboe enters his third season as a starter, and he'll have Dallas Sandberg next to him at one guard spot. The line needs to solidify its right side and develop depth.

DEFENSE New coordinator Ronnie Lee, who was the running backs coach and special teams coordinator at Indiana State in 2012, has plenty of holes to plug on a unit that surrendered 42.4 points per game and recorded only 14 sacks in 12 games. Idaho graduated its top six tacklers. Davis was the only returnee who started every game last season, and he's on offense now. Still, there is hope, as the Vandals do have experience on the front line and in the secondary.

Up front, end Maxx Forde, a 6'5", 261-pound junior, tied for the team lead with four sacks. Ends Quinton Bradley and Marius Burgsmueller and tackles Ryan Edwards and Karel Kearney all are seasoned. Safeties D'Mario Carter and Trey Williams and cornerbacks Solomon Dixon and Bradley Njoku bring experience to the secondary.

Idaho must rebuild its linebacking corps. Junior college transfers Eric Tuipulotu, Juan Martinez and Matt Millan could provide immediate solutions.

SPECIALISTS The Vandals must replace their steadiest performers in recent years — four-year starting kicker Trey Farquhar and school-record-holding punter Bobby Cowan. Redshirt freshman Jace Johnson and true freshman Austin Rehkow will battle for the kicking job. Idaho will be looking for new kickoff and punt returners. Junior college transfer Dezmon Epps might be the answer at those spots.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is a true transition year for the Idaho program. It will play as an FBS Independent before moving to the Sun Belt Conference in 2014. The good news for Petrino is that he'll have a number of young players who'll get experience and exposure to his system, which should help the Vandals when they make the move back to the conference they called home from 2001-04.

Without a conference championship to play for or an automatic bowl tie-in, Idaho must find motivation from within to make this season meaningful. The schedule features four games against teams from AQ conferences as well as three games against a trio of non-AQ schools (Northern Illinois, Fresno State and Arkansas State) that combined to win 31 games last season. The Vandals could struggle to win more than a game or two.

Head Coach: Paul Petrino
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Kris Cinkovich
Defensive Coordinator: Ronnie Lee
Moscow, ID
Kibbie Dome (16,000)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 1-11

August		
31	at North Texas	
September		
7	at Wyoming	
14	Northern Illinois	
21	at Washington State	
28	Temple	
October		
5	Fresno State	
12	at Arkansas State	
26	at Ole Miss	
November		
2	Texas State	
9	Old Dominion	
23	at Florida State	
30	at New Mexico State	

2012 RESULTS (1-11, 1-5)

Aug.	30	Eastern Washington	L	3–20
Sept.	8	at Bowling Green	L	13–21
Sept.	15	at LSU	L	14–63
Sept.	22	Wyoming	L	37–40
Sept.	29	at North Carolina	L	0–66
Oct.	6	New Mexico State	W	26–18
Oct.	13	at Texas State	L	7–38
Oct.	20	at Louisiana Tech	L	28–70
Nov.	3	San Jose State	L	13–42
Nov.	10	at BYU	L	13–52
Nov.	17	UTSA	L	27–34
Nov.	24	at Utah State	L	9–45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dezmon Epps, ATH, Sacramento, CA*
2. Kris Olugbode, RB, San Jose, CA*
3. Matt Linehan, QB, Orchard Lake, MI
4. Eric Tuipulotu, LB, Menlo Park, CA*
5. Jerrel Brown, RB, San Mateo, CA*
6. Anthony Rice, DL, Baltimore, MD*
7. Joshua McCain, QB, San Jose, CA*
8. Delency Parham, CB, Oakland, CA*
9. Anthony Neyer, QB, Palm Desert, CA*
10. Nick Edenfield, OL, Nampa, ID

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	15.8 ppg	5	120
Rushing	89.3 ypg	5	116
Passing	225.8 ypg	5	66
Total	315.1 ypg	5	112
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
Scoring	42.4 ppg	5	118
Rushing	198.7 ypg	4	98
Passing	275.6 ypg	4	106
Total	474.3 ypg	3	110
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
-17	-1.42	4	116

Navy
MIDSHIPMEN

Head Coach: Ken Niumatalolo
Record at School: 40-26 (5 years)
Career Record: 40-26 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ivin Jasper
Defensive Coordinator: Buddy Green
Annapolis, MD
Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5

September		
7	at Indiana	
14	Delaware	
28	at Western Kentucky	
October		
5	Air Force	
12	at Duke	
19	at Toledo	
26	Pittsburgh	
November		
2	at Notre Dame	
9	Hawaii	
16	South Alabama	
23	at San Jose State	
December		
14	vs. Army #	

#Philadelphia, PA

2012 RESULTS (8-5)

Sept.	1	vs. Notre Dame %	L	10–50
Sept.	15	at Penn State	L	7–35
Sept.	22	VMI	W	41–3
Sept.	29	San Jose State	L	0–12
Oct.	6	at Air Force (ot)	W	28–21
Oct.	12	at Central Michigan	W	31–13
Oct.	20	Indiana	W	31–30
Oct.	27	at East Carolina	W	56–28
Nov.	3	Florida Atlantic	W	24–17
Nov.	10	at Troy	L	31–41
Nov.	17	Texas State	W	21–10
Dec.	8	vs. Army &	W	17–13
Dec.	29	vs. Arizona State #	L	28–62

%Dublin, Ireland &Philadelphia #Fight Hunger Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Toye Adewon, OL, Plano, TX
2. Alex Brown, ATH, Lexington, SC
3. Brendon Clements, DB, Miami, FL
4. Daniel Gonzales, LB, Vail, AZ
5. Toneo Gulley, SB, Kenosha, WI
6. Austin Kurke, DL, El Segundo, CA
7. Josiah Powell, LB, Madisonville, KY
8. Dishan Romine, ATH, Louisville, KY
9. Jamir Tillman, WR, Las Vegas, NV
10. William Tuider, LB, Lawrenceville, GA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	25.0 ppg	82
Rushing	278.5 ypg	6
Passing	104.8 ypg	117
Total	383.2 ypg	77
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	25.7 ppg	54
Rushing	193.6 ypg	94
Passing	215.2 ypg	40
Total	408.9 ypg	71
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
0	0.00	58

OFFENSE Keenan Reynolds displayed tremendous poise, presence and instincts along with a strong, accurate throwing arm while starting eight games as a freshman. Navy, while still a triple-option team at heart, will work out of the shotgun formation more in 2013 to take advantage of Reynolds' abilities.

"I feel like we have a special player at the quarterback position," says coach Ken Niumatalolo, who wants to incorporate some spread principles in Navy's attack. "Keenan allows us to do some different things. I just think he has some skills we need to take advantage of. Keenan has the ability to throw on the run, throw under duress. I think adding more of a passing element will make us harder to defend."

Noah Copeland returns at fullback after rushing for 738 yards in his first season as a starter. He should team with bruising sophomore Chris Swain to form a solid one-two combination. Geoffrey Whiteside showed last season he has the speed and explosiveness to succeed Gee Gee Greene as the top slotback. Shawn Lynch should replace Brandon Turner as the go-to receiver.

Center Tanner Fleming, right guard Jake Zuzek and right tackle Graham Vickers are returning starters along the offensive line.

DEFENSE Navy played the bend-but-don't-break philosophy espoused by defensive coordinator Buddy Green, ranking 19th nationally in red zone defense, allowing 37 scores (24 touchdowns, 13 field goals) on 50 opportunities (.740).

19
Navy has posted 19 wins against teams from BCS conferences since 2003 — the most by any non-BCS conference school during that time frame.

The Mids rotated nine players along the defensive line in 2012, and seven of them are back, led by aggressive end Evan Palelei and active nose guard Danny Ring.

Inside linebacker Cody Peterson took over as a starter six games into the season and became a big-time tackler, recording 10 stops versus Air Force and 14 against archrival Army. James Britton, a converted safety who played in nickel situations a year ago, had a strong spring and will likely start at the other inside spot for the Mids, whose 3-4 scheme usually makes the inside backers the leading tacklers. Jordan Drake started every game at one outside linebacker spot, while Obi Uzoma and A.K. Akpunku have the potential to form a strong pass-rushing tandem at the other.

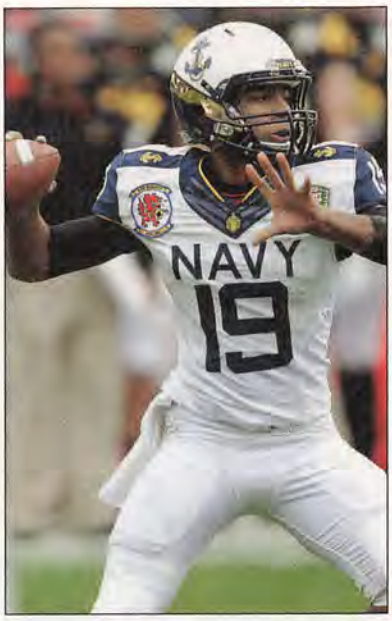
There is a ton of talent in the secondary as seven different returning players have seen action. Free safety Chris Ferguson and right cornerback Parrish Gaines, both juniors, spearhead the unit.

SPECIALISTS Nick Sloan was one of the most pleasant surprises of last season, winning the placekicking job as a plebe and going 10-of-15 on field goals. He opened the season by converting 32 consecutive kicks (25 PATs, seven field goals). Pablo Beltran enjoyed one of the best seasons by a Navy punter in his second year as a starter, averaging 43.6 yards per attempt (third-best average in program history).

FINAL ANALYSIS Navy has displayed remarkable consistency over the last decade, posting winning records in nine of 10 seasons and capturing the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy eight times during that span. However, such sustained success has not come easy — the Midshipmen played in 56 games that were decided by eight points or less from 2002-12.

Navy owns a 32–24 record in such games during that span, which is a major reason why it played in nine bowl games during the most successful period in program history. That ability to win the close ones will be key again this season against a rigorous schedule that features seven schools that went to bowl games in 2012.

Navy has an agreement to appear in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas if it posts a winning record.



KEENAN REYNOLDS

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback (Keenan Reynolds) is really good. They always seem to find a quarterback, and he's a good one."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	88	Casey Bolena (Sr.)	85	Matt Aiken (Sr.)
WR	87	**Shawn Lynch (Sr.)**	81	Brendan Dudeck (Jr.)
LT	62	Bradyn Heap (Jr.)	53	Joey Gaston (So.)
LG	57	E.K. Binns (So.)	71	Thomas Stone (Sr.)
C	75	**Tanner Fleming (Jr.)**	61	Brandon Greene (So.)
RG	64	**Jake Zuzek (Jr.)**	60	Ben Tamburello (So.)
RT	70	**Graham Vickers (Sr.)**	66	Matt Van Halanger (Sr.)
QB	19	**Keenan Reynolds (So.)**	10	John Hendrick (Jr.)
FB	43	**Noah Copeland (Jr.)**	37	Chris Swain (So.)
SB	29	Geoffrey Whiteside (Jr.)	25	Demond Brown (So.)
SB	20	Darius Staten (Sr.)	26	Marcus Thomas (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	58	**Evan Palelei (Sr.)**	90	Will Anthony (So.)
NG	97	Danny Ring (Jr.)	77	Bernie Sarra (So.)
DE	45	Paul Quessenberry (Jr.)	91	Aaron Davis (Jr.)
OLB	13	**Jordan Drake (Jr.)**	41	Josh Tate (Jr.)
ILB	51	James Britton (Jr.)	31	Vinnie Mauro (Sr.)
ILB	53	**Cody Peterson (Sr.)**	47	Maika Polamalu (Jr.)
OLB	44	Obi Uzoma (Jr.)	54	A.K. Akpunku (So.)
CB	2	**Parrish Gaines (Jr.)**	9	Myer Krah (So.)
CB	17	**Kwazel Bertrand (So.)**	7	Shelley White (So.)
SS	8	Wave Ryder (Sr.)	15	Lorentez Barbour (So.)
FS	23	**Chris Ferguson (Jr.)**	5	Quincy Adams (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	6	Nick Sloan (So.)	KR	26	Marcus Thomas (Sr.)
P	11	Pablo Beltran (Jr.)	PR	87	Shawn Lynch (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Keenan Reynolds, 108-61-898-2, 9 TDs
Rushing: Noah Copeland, 162 att., 738 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Shawn Lynch, 14 rec., 281 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Parrish Gaines, 69
Sacks: Jordan Drake, 2
Interceptions: Parrish Gaines, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

New Mexico State AGGIES

AUSTIN FRANKLIN

Boyd Ivey/Icon SMI

THE QUOTE

"It will be interesting to see what (new offensive coordinator) Gregg Brandon can do there. He is a good football coach."

– An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	11	Jordan Bergstrom (Jr.)	6	Joshua Bowen (So.)
WR	**4**	**Austin Franklin (Jr.)**	17	Jerrel Brown (Sr.)
WR	5	Joseph Matthews (Jr.)	16	Adam Shapiro (Jr.)
LT	**74**	**Davonte Wallace (Sr.)**	72	Peter Foreman (So.)
LG	62	Isaiah Folasa-Lutui (So.)	65	Ryan Arbelaez (Jr.)
C	**55**	**Valerian Ume-Ezeoke (Jr.)**	69	Alexander Trujillo (So.)
RG	**70**	**Andy Cunningham (So.)**	50	Abram Holland (So.)
RT	**66**	**Dada Richards (Sr.)**	77	Houston Clemente (So.)
TE	80	Perris Scroggins (Sr.)	89	Andrew Dean (Jr.)
QB	**8**	**Andrew Manley (Jr.)**	12	Andrew McDonald (Sr.)
RB	**25**	**Germi Morrison (Sr.)**	21	Brandon Betancourt (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	9	Willie Mobley (Sr.)	90	Nick Oliva (Sr.)
NG	93	Matt Ramondo (So.)	**56**	**Kevin Laudermill (Sr.)**
DE	91	Kalvin Cruz (Sr.)	47	Chance Roberts (Sr.)
OLB	99	Stephen Meredith (So.)	11	Kalei Auelua (Fr.)
ILB	48	Clint Barnard (So.)	24	Josh Smith (Sr.)
ILB	**12**	**Bryan Bonilla (Sr.)**	15	Zachery Daugherty (So.)
OLB	**2**	**Trashaun Nixon (Sr.)**	6	Dele Junaid (Sr.)
CB	4	Darien Johnson (Sr.)	1	Winston Rose (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Cameron Fuller (Sr.)**	20	Samuel Oyenuga (So.)
SS	**31**	**Davis Cazares (Sr.)**	8	Justin Smith (Sr.)
FS	**5**	**George Callender (Sr.)**	21	Anthony Edwards (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Maxwell Johnson (Sr.)	**KR**	4	Austin Franklin (Jr.)
P	7	C. Chapman-Brown (Sr.)	**PR**	1	Winston Rose (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Andrew Manley, 384-207-2,764-11, 18 TDs
Rushing: Germi Morrison, 159 att., 767 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Austin Franklin, 74 rec., 1,245 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Davis Cazares, 116
Sacks: Trashaun Nixon, 3
Interceptions: George Callender, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OFFENSE The Aggies will have a drastically different look on offense, and that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Last year's team averaged only 18.7 points per game, and the rushing attack averaged 97.6 yards on 3.0 yards per carry.

First-year head coach Doug Martin hired Gregg Brandon as offensive coordinator, and a new attack will take shape. Last season, the Aggies were predictable — a drop-back passing team with a straight-ahead, between-the-tackles ground attack. Brandon will implement a spread offense and a quarterback-option system that will likely require a mobile quarterback.

Last year's starter Andrew Manley doesn't seem like an ideal fit — he can throw the deep ball but is not fleet afoot. Junior Travaughn Colwell and senior Andrew McDonald should push for playing time, with Colwell the superior athlete and McDonald a savvy player who can do a number of things well.

The Aggies lack depth at running back after starter Germi Morrison and backup Brandon Betancourt. Morrison had his moments last year, with 90-plus yards against Utah State and Louisiana Tech and 123 against Texas State in the finale.

14

The Aggies have lost 14 straight games against FBS opponents, and that includes defeats to transitioning schools UTSA and Texas State in 2012.

The offensive line welcomes back three starters — left tackle Davonte Wallace, center Valerian Ume-Ezeoke and right guard Andy Cunningham — but has little depth.

Wide receiver Austin Franklin is the offense's true home run hitter, catching 74 balls for 1,245 yards and nine touchdowns last year.

DEFENSE The defense has some ability, although the Aggies are learning a new system and could be vulnerable against top competition while playing an Independent schedule.

The Aggies will run a 3-4 defense and a one-gap system up front with their defensive line. The likes of Matt Ramondo (a transfer from Michigan State) and Willie Mobley (a sixth-year senior transfer Arizona) are seldom seen at New Mexico State — BCS-caliber talents along the defensive front.

While the Aggies will run a 3-4 in name, in many ways it appears to be a 4-3 in function. One outside linebacker (either Kalei Auelua or Stephen Meredith) will be used essentially as a standup defensive end — deployed either as a pass-rusher or edge-setter in the run game. The team's other outside linebacker, Trashaun Nixon, will be used in multiple ways, dropping into coverage and also as a top pass-rusher.

In the secondary, the Aggies bring back talent and experience and will implement more zone coverage in 2013.

SPECIALISTS Punter Cayle Chapman-Brown was one of the team's top players last year and appeared to be back in full form this spring. Amazingly, New Mexico State attempted only six field goals (making two) in all of 2012. Maxwell Johnson, who went 0-of-2 but made all 11 of his PATs, will be the placekicker. Here's another hard-to-believe stat: The Aggies averaged only 1.3 yards per punt return last year.

FINAL ANALYSIS These Aggies should be improved in 2013, if for no other reason than they'll have a more effective gameplan offensively. While there is talent on defense, a new scheme is in place on that side of the ball as well, and there could be growing pains. Martin has brought in a breath of fresh air and a positive outlook since taking over in February.

After the implosion of the WAC, New Mexico State will play as an Independent in 2013 before moving to the Sun Belt (for its second stint in the league) in 2014. The schedule features four games against BCS conference opponents plus tough dates against San Diego State, UL Lafayette and Rice. It's hard to find more than two wins for the Aggies.

Head Coach: Doug Martin
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 29-53 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Gregg Brandon
Defensive Coordinator: David Elson
Las Cruces, NM
Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)

2013 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10

August		
31	at Texas	
September		
7	Minnesota	
14	UTEP	
21	at UCLA	
28	San Diego State	
October		
5	at New Mexico	
19	Rice	
26	Abilene Christian	
November		
2	at UL Lafayette	
9	Boston College	
23	at Florida Atlantic	
30	Idaho	

2012 RESULTS (1-11, 0-6)

Aug.	30	Sacramento State	W	49-19
Sept.	8	at Ohio	L	24-51
Sept.	15	at UTEP	L	28-41
Sept.	22	New Mexico	L	14-27
Sept.	29	UTSA	L	14-35
Oct.	6	at Idaho	L	18-26
Oct.	20	at Utah State	L	7-41
Oct.	27	Louisiana Tech	L	14-28
Nov.	3	at Auburn	L	7-42
Nov.	10	San Jose State	L	7-47
Nov.	24	BYU	L	14-50
Dec.	1	at Texas State	L	28-66

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brandon Hines, LB, Dallas, TX
2. Rodney Butler, LB, Palm Springs, CA
3. Kalei Auelua, LB, Honolulu, HI
4. Prentavious Morehead, WR, Dallas, TX
5. Marquette Washington, RB, Fontana, CA
6. Gregory Hogan, WR, Houston, TX
7. Jordan Bergstrom, WR, Portland, OR*
8. Winston Rose, CB, Englewood, CA*
9. Thomas McGuire, T, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
10. Jay Fisher James, DE, Apple Valley, CA*

*junior college transfer

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	18.7 ppg	4	112
Rushing	97.6 ypg	4	114
Passing	237.8 ypg	4	59
Total	335.3 ypg	4	102
Defense	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
Scoring	39.4 ppg	4	117
Rushing	221.4 ypg	5	113
Passing	254.8 ypg	3	92
Total	476.2 ypg	4	111
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**WAC**	**National**
-18	-1.50	5	117

Notre Dame

FIGHTING IRISH

Head Coach: Brian Kelly
Record at School: 28-11 (3 years)
Career Record: 199-68-2 (22 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Chuck Martin
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Bob Diaco, Kerry Cooks
South Bend, IN
Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)

2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 10-2

August		
8	Temple	
September		
7	at Michigan	
14	at Purdue	
21	Michigan State	
28	Oklahoma	
October		
5	vs. Arizona State #	
19	USC	
26	at Air Force	
November		
2	Navy	
9	at Pittsburgh	
23	BYU	
30	at Stanford	

#Arlington, TX

2012 RESULTS (12-1)

Sept.	1	vs. Navy %	W	50-10
Sept.	8	Purdue	W	20-17
Sept.	15	at Michigan State	W	20-3
Sept.	22	Michigan	W	13-6
Oct.	6	vs. Miami (Fla.) &	W	41-3
Oct.	13	Stanford (ot)	W	20-13
Oct.	20	BYU	W	17-14
Oct.	27	at Oklahoma	W	30-13
Nov.	3	Pittsburgh (ot)	W	29-26
Nov.	10	at Boston College	W	21-6
Nov.	17	Wake Forest	W	38-0
Nov.	24	at USC	W	22-13
Jan.	7	vs. Alabama #	L	14-42

%Dublin, Ireland &Chicago #BCS National Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jaylon Smith, LB, Fort Wayne, IN
2. Eddie Vanderdoes, DL, Auburn, CA
3. Max Redfield, S, Mission Viejo, CA
4. Greg Bryant, RB, Delray Beach, FL
5. Steve Elmer, OT, Midland, MI
6. Hunter Bivin, OL, Owensboro, KY
7. John Montelus, OG, Everett, MA
8. Tarean Folston, RB, Cocoa, FL
9. Cole Luke, CB, Chandler, AZ
10. Mike McGlinchey, OL, Philadelphia, PA

2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	25.8 ppg	78
Rushing	189.4 ypg	38
Passing	222.8 ypg	71
Total	412.2 ypg	54
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	12.8 ppg	2
Rushing	105.7 ypg	11
Passing	199.8 ypg	25
Total	305.5 ypg	7
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
+8	+0.62	27

OFFENSE A year of experience under quarterback Everett Golson's belt, three-fifths of the starting offensive line from '12, and some exciting young skill position players have the Irish offense optimistic that it will be able to shoulder more of the weight in 2013.

Notre Dame scored 22 points or less in regulation in eight of its 12 victories. Most of their problems stemmed from a 48.3 touchdown percentage in the red zone (which ranked 112th in the nation).

Golson had fumbling issues early in the season, but he flourished down the stretch. For the season, he completed 58.8 percent of his passes for 2,405 yards with 12 touchdowns and only six interceptions. The Irish lost 304 carries, 1,659 yards rushing, and nine TDs with the graduation of Theo Riddick and Cierre Wood. But junior George Atkinson III leads a pack of talented young backs.

Senior TJ Jones, who caught 50 passes for 649 yards, headlines a young receiving corps that will have to increase its production to help offset the loss of tight end Tyler Eifert. Sophomore DaVaris Daniels will have a prominent role.

The offensive line will be a strength. Left tackle Zack Martin is back for a final year of eligibility after projecting as a second-round NFL pick.

20

Notre Dame was the only team in the nation that did not allow a single opponent to score more than 20 points in regulation during the regular season.

DEFENSE It's rare that Notre Dame boasts NFL talent along the defensive line, which is a big reason why the Irish hadn't competed for a national title in nearly two decades. But with juniors Louis Nix III at nose guard and Stephon Tuitt at left end, the Irish are capable of dominating at the point of attack.

Linebacker Manti Te'o will no doubt be missed, but his replacement, Jarrett Grace, is the type of downhill run-stopper with size that defensive coordinator Bob Diaco covets.

The Irish secondary is deep and talented. Matthias Farley, a former wide receiver, is the leader of a solid group of safeties that also includes sophomore Elijah Shumate and freshman 5-star prospect Max Redfield. Notre Dame struck gold last year with first-time cornerback starters Bennett Jackson and KeiVarae Russell. Lo Wood is back after missing last season with an Achilles injury.

SPECIALISTS Kyle Brindza started the 2012 campaign as the backup to Nick Tausch, who waited his turn as David Ruffer ran roughshod over the Irish kicking record book in '11. But Tausch suffered an injury before the second game, and Brindza stepped in and set a school record with 23 field goals. Alex Wulfeck, a senior transfer from Wake Forest, is in line to take over the punting duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS All the stars aligned last year for the Irish — at least, until they ran into Alabama. They were 5–0 in games decided by one score, and they went from a horrid minus-15 turnover ratio in 2011 to a more desirable plus-8. The Irish caught some breaks and created the ones they didn't.

The 2012 defense was the best at Notre Dame since the 1966 national championship squad. Even with the loss of Te'o, the inside linebacker corps is solid, and in Nix and Tuitt up front, the Irish have a couple of future NFL performers.

It is conceivable that the Irish could be as good if not better in more facets of the game in 2013 but fail to duplicate last year's magical, unscathed run to the national title game. The Irish face another challenging schedule that includes Michigan, Michigan State, Oklahoma, Arizona State, USC, Pittsburgh, BYU and Stanford.

The Irish are a deeper team with a year of success upon which to build. Anything shy of 10 wins will be a disappointment.

LOUIS NIX III

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback (Everett Golson) has a chance to be a great player when he becomes more consistent."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	81	DaVaris Daniels (So.)	88	Corey Robinson (Fr.)
WR	7	**TJ Jones (Sr.)**	2	Chris Brown (So.)
WR	20	C.J. Prosise (Fr.)	87	Daniel Smith (Sr.)
LT	70	**Zack Martin (Sr.)**	78	Ronnie Stanley (So.)
LG	66	**Chris Watt (Sr.)**	51	Bruce Heggie (Jr.)
C	72	Nick Martin (So.)	77	Matt Hegarty (So.)
RG	65	Conor Hanratty (So.)	75	Mark Harrell (Fr.)
RT	74	**Christian Lombard (Jr.)**	79	Steve Elmer (Fr.)
TE	85	Troy Niklas (Jr.)	82	Alex Welch (Jr.)
QB	5	**Everett Golson (So.)**	11	Tommy Rees (Sr.)
RB	4	George Atkinson III (Jr.)	3	Amir Carlisle (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	7	**Stephon Tuitt (Jr.)**	94	Jarron Jones (Fr.)
NG	1	**Louis Nix III (Jr.)**	96	Kona Schwenke (Sr.)
DE	91	Sheldon Day (So.)	69	Tony Springmann (So.)
OLB	55	**Prince Shembo (Sr.)**	11	Ishaq Williams (Jr.)
ILB	44	Carlo Calabrese (Sr.)	59	Jarrett Grace (So.)
ILB	48	**Dan Fox (Sr.)**	8	Kendall Moore (Jr.)
OLB	13	**Danny Spond (Sr.)**	30	Ben Councell (So.)
CB	2	**Bennett Jackson (Sr.)**	21	Jalen Brown (So.)
CB	6	**KeiVarae Russell (So.)**	23	Lo Wood (Jr.)
S	41	**Matthias Farley (So.)**	28	Austin Collinsworth (Jr.)
S	22	Elijah Shumate (So.)	29	Nicky Baratti (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Kyle Brindza (Jr.)	KR	4	George Atkinson (Jr.)
P		Alex Wulfeck (Sr.)	PR	7	TJ Jones (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Everett Golson, 318-187-2,405-6, 12 TDs
Rushing: George Atkinson III, 51 att., 361 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: TJ Jones, 50 rec., 649 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Bennett Jackson, 65
Sacks: Stephon Tuitt, 12
Interceptions: Bennett Jackson, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

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(Some don't even try.)

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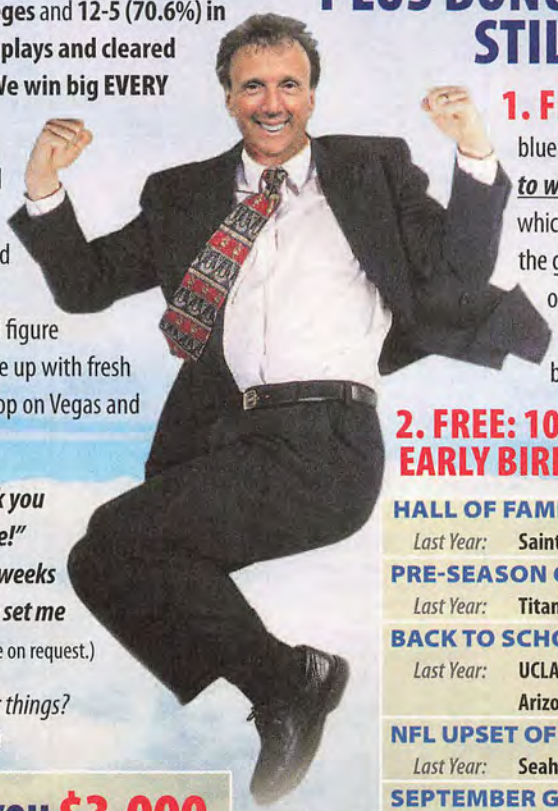

Subscriber J. D. of Cleveland wrote us, ***"Thank you for the winners – thank you for the confidence!"*** Steve T. of Bellville NY wrote: ***"Your opening two weeks were brilliant. Your Opening Week Grand Slam set me up for my best season ever!"*** (Testimonials available on request.)

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Last Year:	**Saints (-2½) Cardinals**	**17-10**	**WON!**
PRE-SEASON GAME OF THE YEAR			
Last Year:	**Titans (+2½) Buccaneers**	**30-7**	**WON!**
BACK TO SCHOOL PARLAY			
Last Year:	**UCLA (+5½) Nebraska**	**36-30**	**WON!**
	Arizona (+11) Oklahoma State	**16-14**	**WON!**
NFL UPSET OF THE MONTH			
Last Year:	**Seahawks (+3½) Cowboys**	**27-7**	**WON!**
SEPTEMBER GOLDEN GAME			
Last Year:	**Kansas State (+16½) Oklahoma**	**24-19**	**WON!**

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2013 FBS COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SCHEDULES

ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE (2-10, 1-7)
Chestnut Hill, MA

Aug.	31	Villanova
Sept.	6	Wake Forest
Sept.	14	at USC
Sept.	28	Florida State
Oct.	5	Army
Oct.	12	at Clemson
Oct.	26	at North Carolina
Nov.	2	Virginia Tech
Nov.	9	at New Mexico State
Nov.	16	NC State
Nov.	23	at Maryland
Nov.	30	at Syracuse

CLEMSON (11-2, 7-1)
Clemson, SC

Aug.	31	Georgia
Sept.	7	South Carolina State
Sept.	19	at NC State
Sept.	28	Wake Forest
Oct.	5	at Syracuse
Oct.	12	Boston College
Oct.	19	Florida State
Oct.	26	at Maryland
Nov.	2	at Virginia
Nov.	14	Georgia Tech
Nov.	23	The Citadel
Nov.	30	at South Carolina

DUKE (6-7, 3-5)
Durham, NC

Aug.	31	NC Central
Sept.	7	at Memphis
Sept.	14	Georgia Tech
Sept.	21	Pittsburgh
Sept.	28	Troy
Oct.	12	Navy
Oct.	19	at Virginia
Oct.	26	at Virginia Tech
Nov.	9	NC State
Nov.	16	Miami
Nov.	23	at Wake Forest
Nov.	30	at North Carolina

FLORIDA STATE (12-2, 7-1)
Tallahassee, FL

Sept.	2	at Pittsburgh
Sept.	14	Nevada
Sept.	21	Bethune-Cookman
Sept.	28	at Boston College
Oct.	5	Maryland
Oct.	19	at Clemson
Oct.	26	NC State
Nov.	2	Miami
Nov.	9	at Wake Forest
Nov.	16	Syracuse
Nov.	23	Idaho
Nov.	30	at Florida

GEORGIA TECH (7-7, 5-3)
Atlanta, GA

Aug.	31	Elon
Sept.	14	at Duke
Sept.	21	North Carolina
Sept.	26	Virginia Tech
Oct.	5	at Miami
Oct.	12	at BYU
Oct.	19	Syracuse
Oct.	26	at Virginia
Nov.	2	Pittsburgh
Nov.	14	at Clemson
Nov.	23	Alabama A&M
Nov.	30	Georgia

MARYLAND (4-8, 2-6)
College Park, MD

Aug.	31	FIU
Sept.	7	Old Dominion
Sept.	14	at Connecticut
Sept.	21	vs. West Virginia #
Oct.	5	at Florida State
Oct.	12	Virginia
Oct.	19	at Wake Forest
Oct.	26	Clemson
Nov.	9	Syracuse
Nov.	16	at Virginia Tech
Nov.	23	Boston College
Nov.	30	at NC State
		#Baltimore, MD

MIAMI (7-5, 5-3)
Coral Gables, FL

Aug.	30	Florida Atlantic
Sept.	7	Florida
Sept.	21	Savannah State
Sept.	28	at South Florida
Oct.	5	Georgia Tech
Oct.	17	at North Carolina
Oct.	26	Wake Forest
Nov.	2	at Florida State
Nov.	9	Virginia Tech
Nov.	16	at Duke
Nov.	23	Virginia
Nov.	29	at Pittsburgh

NORTH CAROLINA (8-4, 5-3)
Chapel Hill, NC

Aug.	29	at South Carolina
Sept.	7	Middle Tennessee
Sept.	21	at Georgia Tech
Sept.	28	East Carolina
Oct.	5	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	17	Miami
Oct.	26	Boston College
Nov.	2	at NC State
Nov.	9	Virginia
Nov.	16	at Pittsburgh
Nov.	23	Old Dominion
Nov.	30	Duke

NC STATE (7-6, 4-4)
Raleigh, NC

Aug.	31	Louisiana Tech
Sept.	7	Richmond
Sept.	19	Clemson
Sept.	28	Central Michigan
Oct.	5	at Wake Forest
Oct.	12	Syracuse
Oct.	26	at Florida State
Nov.	2	North Carolina
Nov.	9	at Duke
Nov.	16	at Boston College
Nov.	23	East Carolina
Nov.	30	Maryland

PITTSBURGH (6-7, 3-4 Big East)
Pittsburgh, PA

Sept.	2	Florida State
Sept.	14	New Mexico
Sept.	21	at Duke
Sept.	28	Virginia
Oct.	12	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	19	Old Dominion
Oct.	26	at Navy
Nov.	2	at Georgia Tech
Nov.	9	Notre Dame
Nov.	16	North Carolina
Nov.	23	at Syracuse
Nov.	29	Miami

SYRACUSE (8-5, 5-2 Big East)
Syracuse, NY

Aug.	31	vs. Penn State #
Sept.	7	at Northwestern
Sept.	14	Wagner
Sept.	21	Tulane
Oct.	5	Clemson
Oct.	12	at NC State
Oct.	19	at Georgia Tech
Nov.	2	Wake Forest
Nov.	9	at Maryland
Nov.	16	at Florida State
Nov.	23	Pittsburgh
Nov.	30	Boston College
		#East Rutherford, NJ

VIRGINIA (4-8, 2-6)
Charlottesville, VA

Aug.	31	BYU
Sept.	7	Oregon
Sept.	21	VMI
Sept.	28	at Pittsburgh
Oct.	5	Ball State
Oct.	12	at Maryland
Oct.	19	Duke
Oct.	26	Georgia Tech
Nov.	2	Clemson
Nov.	9	at North Carolina
Nov.	23	at Miami
Nov.	30	Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH (7-6, 4-4)
Blacksburg, VA

Aug.	31	vs. Alabama #
Sept.	7	Western Carolina
Sept.	14	at East Carolina
Sept.	21	Marshall
Sept.	26	at Georgia Tech
Oct.	5	North Carolina
Oct.	12	Pittsburgh
Oct.	26	Duke
Nov.	2	at Boston College
Nov.	9	at Miami
Nov.	16	Maryland
Nov.	30	at Virginia
		#Atlanta, GA

WAKE FOREST (5-7, 3-5)
Winston-Salem, NC

Aug.	29	Presbyterian
Sept.	6	at Boston College
Sept.	14	UL Monroe
Sept.	21	at Army
Sept.	28	at Clemson
Oct.	5	NC State
Oct.	19	Maryland
Oct.	26	at Miami
Nov.	2	at Syracuse
Nov.	9	Florida State
Nov.	23	Duke
Nov.	30	at Vanderbilt

AMERICAN

CINCINNATI (10-3, 5-2)
Cincinnati, OH

Aug.	31	Purdue
Sept.	7	at Illinois
Sept.	14	Northwestern State
Sept.	21	at Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	5	at South Florida
Oct.	11	Temple
Oct.	19	Connecticut
Oct.	30	at Memphis
Nov.	9	SMU
Nov.	16	at Rutgers
Nov.	23	at Houston
Dec.	5	Louisville

CONNECTICUT (5-7, 2-5)
Storrs, CT

Aug.	29	Towson
Sept.	14	Maryland
Sept.	21	Michigan
Sept.	28	at Buffalo
Oct.	12	South Florida
Oct.	19	at Cincinnati
Oct.	26	at UCF
Nov.	8	Louisville
Nov.	16	at SMU
Nov.	23	at Temple
Nov.	30	Rutgers
Dec.	7	Memphis

HOUSTON (5-7, 4-4 C-USA)
Houston, TX

Aug.	30	Southern
Sept.	7	at Temple
Sept.	21	at Rice
Sept.	28	at UTSA
Oct.	12	Memphis
Oct.	19	BYU
Oct.	26	at Rutgers
Oct.	31	South Florida
Nov.	9	at UCF
Nov.	16	at Louisville
Nov.	23	Cincinnati
Nov.	29	SMU

LOUISVILLE (11-2, 5-2)
Louisville, KY

Aug.	31	Ohio
Sept.	7	Eastern Kentucky
Sept.	14	at Kentucky
Sept.	21	FIU
Oct.	5	at Temple
Oct.	10	Rutgers
Oct.	18	UCF
Oct.	26	at South Florida
Nov.	8	at Connecticut
Nov.	16	Houston
Nov.	23	Memphis
Dec.	5	at Cincinnati

MEMPHIS (4-8, 4-4 C-USA)
Memphis, TN

Sept.	7	Duke
Sept.	14	at Middle Tennessee
Sept.	21	Arkansas State
Oct.	5	UCF
Oct.	12	at Houston
Oct.	19	SMU
Oct.	30	Cincinnati
Nov.	9	TN-Martin
Nov.	16	at South Florida
Nov.	23	at Louisville
Nov.	30	Temple
Dec.	7	at Connecticut

RUTGERS (9-4, 5-2)
New Brunswick, NJ

Aug.	29	at Fresno State
Sept.	7	Norfolk State
Sept.	14	Eastern Michigan
Sept.	21	Arkansas
Oct.	5	at SMU
Oct.	10	at Louisville
Oct.	26	Houston
Nov.	2	Temple
Nov.	16	Cincinnati
Nov.	21	at UCF
Nov.	30	at Connecticut
Dec.	7	South Florida

SMU (7-6, 5-3 C-USA)
Dallas, TX

Aug.	30	Texas Tech
Sept.	7	Montana State
Sept.	21	at Texas A&M
Sept.	28	at TCU
Oct.	5	Rutgers
Oct.	19	at Memphis
Oct.	26	Temple
Nov.	9	at Cincinnati
Nov.	16	Connecticut
Nov.	23	at South Florida
Nov.	29	at Houston
Dec.	7	UCF

SOUTH FLORIDA (3-9, 1-6)
Tampa, FL

Aug.	31	McNeese State
Sept.	7	at Michigan State
Sept.	14	Florida Atlantic
Sept.	28	Miami
Oct.	5	Cincinnati
Oct.	12	at Connecticut
Oct.	26	Louisville
Oct.	31	at Houston
Nov.	16	Memphis
Nov.	23	SMU
Nov.	29	at UCF
Dec.	7	at Rutgers

TEMPLE (4-7, 2-5)
Philadelphia, PA

Aug.	31	at Notre Dame
Sept.	7	Houston
Sept.	14	Fordham
Sept.	28	at Idaho
Oct.	5	Louisville
Oct.	11	at Cincinnati
Oct.	19	Army
Oct.	26	at SMU
Nov.	2	at Rutgers
Nov.	16	UCF
Nov.	23	Connecticut
Nov.	30	at Memphis

UCF (10-4, 7-1 C-USA)
Orlando, FL

Aug.	29	Akron
Sept.	7	at FIU
Sept.	14	at Penn State
Sept.	28	South Carolina
Oct.	5	at Memphis
Oct.	18	at Louisville
Oct.	26	Connecticut
Nov.	9	Houston
Nov.	16	at Temple
Nov.	21	Rutgers
Nov.	29	South Florida
Dec.	7	at SMU

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS (2-10, 0-8)
Champaign, IL

Aug.	31	Southern Illinois
Sept.	7	Cincinnati
Sept.	14	vs. Washington #
Sept.	28	Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	5	at Nebraska
Oct.	19	Wisconsin
Oct.	26	Michigan State
Nov.	2	at Penn State
Nov.	9	at Indiana
Nov.	16	Ohio State
Nov.	23	at Purdue
Nov.	30	Northwestern
		#Chicago, IL

INDIANA (4-8, 3-5)
Bloomington, IN

Aug.	29	Indiana State
Sept.	7	Navy
Sept.	14	Bowling Green
Sept.	21	Missouri
Oct.	5	Penn State
Oct.	12	at Michigan State
Oct.	19	at Michigan
Nov.	2	Minnesota
Nov.	9	Illinois
Nov.	16	at Wisconsin
Nov.	23	at Ohio State
Nov.	30	Purdue

IOWA (4-8, 2-6)
Iowa City, IA

Aug.	31	Northern Illinois
Sept.	7	Missouri State
Sept.	14	at Iowa State
Sept.	21	Western Michigan
Sept.	28	at Minnesota
Oct.	5	Michigan State
Oct.	19	at Ohio State
Oct.	26	Northwestern
Nov.	2	Wisconsin
Nov.	9	at Purdue
Nov.	23	Michigan
Nov.	29	at Nebraska

MICHIGAN (8-5, 6-2)
Ann Arbor, MI

Aug.	31	Central Michigan
Sept.	7	Notre Dame
Sept.	14	Akron
Sept.	21	at Connecticut
Oct.	5	Minnesota
Oct.	12	at Penn State
Oct.	19	Indiana
Nov.	2	at Michigan State
Nov.	9	Nebraska
Nov.	16	at Northwestern
Nov.	23	at Iowa
Nov.	30	Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE (7-6, 3-5)
East Lansing, MI

Aug.	30	Western Michigan
Sept.	7	South Florida
Sept.	14	Youngstown State
Sept.	21	at Notre Dame
Oct.	5	at Iowa
Oct.	12	Indiana
Oct.	19	Purdue
Oct.	26	at Illinois
Nov.	2	Michigan
Nov.	16	at Nebraska
Nov.	23	at Northwestern
Nov.	30	Minnesota

MINNESOTA (6-7, 2-6)
Minneapolis, MN

Aug.	29	UNLV
Sept.	7	at New Mexico State
Sept.	14	Western Illinois
Sept.	21	San Jose State
Sept.	28	Iowa
Oct.	5	at Michigan
Oct.	19	at Northwestern
Oct.	26	Nebraska
Nov.	2	at Indiana
Nov.	9	Penn State
Nov.	23	Wisconsin
Nov.	30	at Michigan State

NEBRASKA (10-4, 7-1)
Lincoln, NE

Aug.	31	Wyoming
Sept.	7	Southern Miss
Sept.	14	UCLA
Sept.	21	South Dakota St
Oct.	5	Illinois
Oct.	12	at Purdue
Oct.	26	at Minnesota
Nov.	2	Northwestern
Nov.	9	at Michigan
Nov.	16	Michigan State
Nov.	23	at Penn State
Nov.	29	Iowa

NORTHWESTERN (10-3, 5-3)
Evanston, IL

Aug.	31	at California
Sept.	7	Syracuse
Sept.	14	Western Michigan
Sept.	21	Maine
Oct.	5	Ohio State
Oct.	12	at Wisconsin
Oct.	19	Minnesota
Oct.	26	at Iowa
Nov.	2	at Nebraska
Nov.	16	Michigan
Nov.	23	Michigan State
Nov.	30	at Illinois

OHIO STATE (12-0, 8-0)
Columbus, OH

Aug.	31	Buffalo
Sept.	7	San Diego State
Sept.	14	at California
Sept.	21	Florida A&M
Sept.	28	Wisconsin
Oct.	5	at Northwestern
Oct.	19	Iowa
Oct.	26	Penn State
Nov.	2	at Purdue
Nov.	16	at Illinois
Nov.	23	Indiana
Nov.	30	at Michigan

PENN STATE (8-4, 6-2)
University Park, PA

Aug.	31	vs. Syracuse #
Sept.	7	Eastern Michigan
Sept.	14	UCF
Sept.	21	Kent State
Oct.	5	at Indiana
Oct.	12	Michigan
Oct.	26	at Ohio State
Nov.	2	Illinois
Nov.	9	at Minnesota
Nov.	16	Purdue
Nov.	23	Nebraska
Nov.	30	at Wisconsin
		#East Rutherford, NJ

PURDUE (6-7, 3-5)
West Lafayette, IN

Aug.	31	at Cincinnati
Sept.	7	Indiana State
Sept.	14	Notre Dame
Sept.	21	at Wisconsin
Sept.	28	Northern Illinois
Oct.	12	Nebraska
Oct.	19	at Michigan State
Nov.	2	Ohio State
Nov.	9	Iowa
Nov.	16	at Penn State
Nov.	23	Illinois
Nov.	30	at Indiana

WISCONSIN (8-6, 4-4)
Madison, WI

Aug.	31	Massachusetts
Sept.	7	Tennessee Tech
Sept.	14	at Arizona State
Sept.	21	Purdue
Sept.	28	at Ohio State
Oct.	12	Northwestern
Oct.	19	at Illinois
Nov.	2	at Iowa
Nov.	9	BYU
Nov.	16	Indiana
Nov.	23	at Minnesota
Nov.	30	Penn State

BIG 12

BAYLOR (8-5, 4-5)
Waco, TX

Aug.	31	Wofford
Sept.	7	Buffalo
Sept.	21	UL Monroe
Oct.	5	West Virginia
Oct.	12	at Kansas State
Oct.	19	Iowa State
Oct.	26	at Kansas
Nov.	7	Oklahoma
Nov.	16	vs. Texas Tech #
Nov.	23	at Oklahoma State
Nov.	30	at TCU
Dec.	7	Texas
		#Arlington, TX

IOWA STATE (6-7, 3-6)
Ames, IA

Aug.	31	Northern Iowa
Sept.	14	Iowa
Sept.	26	at Tulsa
Oct.	3	Texas
Oct.	12	at Texas Tech
Oct.	19	at Baylor
Oct.	26	Oklahoma State
Nov.	2	at Kansas State
Nov.	9	TCU
Nov.	16	at Oklahoma
Nov.	23	Kansas
Nov.	29	at West Virginia

KANSAS (1-11, 0-9)
Lawrence, KS

Sept.	7	South Dakota
Sept.	14	at Rice
Sept.	21	Louisiana Tech
Oct.	5	Texas Tech
Oct.	12	at TCU
Oct.	19	Oklahoma
Oct.	26	Baylor
Nov.	2	at Texas
Nov.	9	at Oklahoma State
Nov.	16	West Virginia
Nov.	23	at Iowa State
Nov.	30	Kansas State

KANSAS STATE (11-2, 8-1)
Manhattan, KS

Aug.	31	North Dakota State
Sept.	7	UL Lafayette
Sept.	14	Massachusetts
Sept.	21	at Texas
Oct.	5	at Oklahoma State
Oct.	12	Baylor
Oct.	26	West Virginia
Nov.	2	Iowa State
Nov.	9	at Texas Tech
Nov.	16	TCU
Nov.	23	Oklahoma
Nov.	30	at Kansas

OKLAHOMA (10-3, 8-1)
Norman, OK

Aug.	31	UL Monroe
Sept.	7	West Virginia
Sept.	14	Tulsa
Sept.	28	at Notre Dame
Oct.	5	TCU
Oct.	12	vs. Texas #
Oct.	19	at Kansas
Oct.	26	Texas Tech
Nov.	7	at Baylor
Nov.	16	Iowa State
Nov.	23	at Kansas State
Dec.	7	at Oklahoma State
		#Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE (8-5, 5-4)
Stillwater, OK

Aug.	31	vs. Mississippi St #
Sept.	7	at UTSA
Sept.	14	Lamar
Sept.	28	at West Virginia
Oct.	5	Kansas State
Oct.	19	TCU
Oct.	26	at Iowa State
Nov.	2	at Texas Tech
Nov.	9	Kansas
Nov.	16	at Texas
Nov.	23	Baylor
Dec.	7	Oklahoma
		#Houston, TX

2013 FBS SCHEDULES

TCU (7-6, 4-5)
Fort Worth, TX

Aug.	31	vs. LSU #
Sept.	7	SE Louisiana
Sept.	12	at Texas Tech
Sept.	28	SMU
Oct.	5	at Oklahoma
Oct.	12	Kansas
Oct.	19	at Oklahoma State
Oct.	26	Texas
Nov.	2	West Virginia
Nov.	9	at Iowa State
Nov.	16	at Kansas State
Nov.	30	Baylor

#Arlington, TX

TEXAS (9-4, 5-4)
Austin, TX

Aug.	31	New Mexico State
Sept.	7	at BYU
Sept.	14	Ole Miss
Sept.	21	Kansas State
Oct.	3	at Iowa State
Oct.	12	vs. Oklahoma #
Oct.	26	at TCU
Nov.	2	Kansas
Nov.	9	at West Virginia
Nov.	16	Oklahoma State
Nov.	28	Texas Tech
Dec.	7	at Baylor

#Dallas, TX

TEXAS TECH (8-5, 4-5)
Lubbock, TX

Aug.	30	at SMU
Sept.	7	Stephen F. Austin
Sept.	12	TCU
Sept.	21	Texas State
Oct.	5	at Kansas
Oct.	12	Iowa State
Oct.	19	at West Virginia
Oct.	26	at Oklahoma
Nov.	2	Oklahoma State
Nov.	9	Kansas State
Nov.	16	vs. Baylor #
Nov.	28	at Texas

#Arlington, TX

WEST VIRGINIA (7-6, 4-5)
Morgantown, WV

Aug.	31	William & Mary
Sept.	7	at Oklahoma
Sept.	14	Georgia State
Sept.	21	vs. Maryland #
Sept.	28	Oklahoma State
Oct.	5	at Baylor
Oct.	19	Texas Tech
Oct.	26	at Kansas State
Nov.	2	at TCU
Nov.	9	Texas
Nov.	16	at Kansas
Nov.	29	Iowa State

#Baltimore, MD

C-USA

EAST CAROLINA (8-5, 7-1)
Greenville, NC

Aug.	31	Old Dominion
Sept.	5	Florida Atlantic
Sept.	14	Virginia Tech
Sept.	28	at North Carolina
Oct.	5	at Middle Tennessee
Oct.	12	at Tulane
Oct.	19	Southern Miss
Nov.	2	at FIU
Nov.	9	Tulsa
Nov.	16	UAB
Nov.	23	at NC State
Nov.	30	at Marshall

FLORIDA ATLANTIC (3-9, 2-6 Sun Belt)
Boca Raton, FL

Aug.	30	at Miami
Sept.	5	at East Carolina
Sept.	14	at South Florida
Sept.	21	Middle Tennessee
Sept.	28	at Rice
Oct.	5	at UAB
Oct.	12	Marshall
Oct.	26	at Auburn
Nov.	2	Tulane
Nov.	16	at Southern Miss
Nov.	23	New Mexico State
Nov.	29	FIU

FIU (3-9, 2-6 Sun Belt)
Miami, FL

Aug.	31	at Maryland
Sept.	7	UCF
Sept.	14	Bethune-Cookman
Sept.	21	at Louisville
Oct.	5	at Southern Miss
Oct.	12	UAB
Oct.	26	Louisiana Tech
Nov.	2	East Carolina
Nov.	9	at Middle Tennessee
Nov.	16	at UTEP
Nov.	23	Marshall
Nov.	29	at Florida Atlantic

LOUISIANA TECH (9-3, 4-2 WAC)
Ruston, LA

Aug.	31	at NC State
Sept.	7	Lamar
Sept.	12	Tulane
Sept.	21	at Kansas
Sept.	28	vs. Army #
Oct.	5	at UTEP
Oct.	19	North Texas
Oct.	26	at FIU
Nov.	9	Southern Miss
Nov.	16	at Rice
Nov.	23	Tulsa
Nov.	30	at UTSA

#Dallas, TX

MARSHALL (5-7, 4-4)
Huntington, WV

Aug.	31	Miami (Ohio)
Sept.	7	Gardner-Webb
Sept.	14	at Ohio
Sept.	21	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	5	UTSA
Oct.	12	at Florida Atlantic
Oct.	24	at Middle Tennessee
Nov.	2	Southern Miss
Nov.	9	UAB
Nov.	14	at Tulsa
Nov.	23	at FIU
Nov.	30	East Carolina

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (8-4, 6-2 Sun Belt)
Murfreesboro, TN

Aug.	29	Western Carolina
Sept.	7	at North Carolina
Sept.	14	Memphis
Sept.	21	at Florida Atlantic
Sept.	27	at BYU
Oct.	5	East Carolina
Oct.	12	at North Texas
Oct.	24	Marshall
Nov.	2	at UAB
Nov.	9	FIU
Nov.	23	at Southern Miss
Nov.	30	UTEP

NORTH TEXAS (4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt)
Denton, TX

Aug.	31	Idaho
Sept.	7	at Ohio
Sept.	14	Ball State
Sept.	21	at Georgia
Oct.	5	at Tulane
Oct.	12	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	19	at Louisiana Tech
Oct.	26	at Southern Miss
Nov.	2	Rice
Nov.	9	UTEP
Nov.	23	UTSA
Nov.	30	at Tulsa

RICE (7-6, 4-4)
Houston, TX

Aug.	31	at Texas A&M
Sept.	14	Kansas
Sept.	21	Houston
Sept.	28	Florida Atlantic
Oct.	5	at Tulsa
Oct.	12	at UTSA
Oct.	19	at New Mexico State
Oct.	26	UTEP
Nov.	2	at North Texas
Nov.	16	Louisiana Tech
Nov.	23	at UAB
Nov.	30	Tulane

SOUTHERN MISS (0-12, 0-8)
Hattiesburg, MS

Aug.	31	Texas State
Sept.	7	at Nebraska
Sept.	14	at Arkansas
Sept.	28	at Boise State
Oct.	5	FIU
Oct.	19	at East Carolina
Oct.	26	North Texas
Nov.	2	at Marshall
Nov.	9	at Louisiana Tech
Nov.	16	Florida Atlantic
Nov.	23	Middle Tennessee
Nov.	30	at UAB

TULANE (2-10, 2-6)
New Orleans, LA

Aug.	31	Jackson State
Sept.	7	South Alabama
Sept.	12	at Louisiana Tech
Sept.	21	at Syracuse
Sept.	28	at UL Monroe
Oct.	5	North Texas
Oct.	12	East Carolina
Oct.	26	Tulsa
Nov.	2	at Florida Atlantic
Nov.	9	at UTSA
Nov.	23	UTEP
Nov.	30	at Rice

TULSA (11-3, 7-1)
Tulsa, OK

Aug.	29	at Bowling Green
Sept.	7	Colorado State
Sept.	14	at Oklahoma
Sept.	26	Iowa State
Oct.	5	Rice
Oct.	12	at UTEP
Oct.	26	at Tulane
Nov.	2	UTSA
Nov.	9	at East Carolina
Nov.	14	Marshall
Nov.	23	at Louisiana Tech
Nov.	30	North Texas

UAB (3-9, 2-6)
Birmingham, AL

Aug.	31	at Troy
Sept.	7	at LSU
Sept.	21	Northwestern State
Sept.	28	at Vanderbilt
Oct.	5	Florida Atlantic
Oct.	12	at FIU
Oct.	26	at UTSA
Nov.	2	Middle Tennessee
Nov.	9	at Marshall
Nov.	16	at East Carolina
Nov.	23	Rice
Nov.	30	Southern Miss

UTEP (3-9, 2-6)
El Paso, TX

Sept.	7	New Mexico
Sept.	14	at New Mexico State
Sept.	21	UTSA
Sept.	28	at Colorado State
Oct.	5	Louisiana Tech
Oct.	12	Tulsa
Oct.	26	at Rice
Nov.	2	at Texas A&M
Nov.	9	at North Texas
Nov.	16	FIU
Nov.	23	at Tulane
Nov.	30	at Middle Tennessee

UTSA (8-4, 3-3 WAC)
San Antonio, TX

Aug.	31	at New Mexico
Sept.	7	Oklahoma State
Sept.	14	at Arizona
Sept.	21	at UTEP
Sept.	28	Houston
Oct.	5	at Marshall
Oct.	12	Rice
Oct.	26	UAB
Nov.	2	at Tulsa
Nov.	9	Tulane
Nov.	23	at North Texas
Nov.	30	Louisiana Tech

MAC

AKRON (1-11, 0-8)
Akron, OH

Aug.	29	at UCF
Sept.	7	James Madison
Sept.	14	at Michigan
Sept.	21	UL Lafayette
Sept.	28	at Bowling Green
Oct.	5	Ohio
Oct.	12	at Northern Illinois
Oct.	19	at Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	26	Ball State
Nov.	2	Kent State
Nov.	16	at Massachusetts
Nov.	29	Toledo

BALL STATE (9-4, 6-2)
Muncie, IN

Aug.	29	Illinois State
Sept.	7	Army
Sept.	14	at North Texas
Sept.	21	at Eastern Michigan
Sept.	28	Toledo
Oct.	5	at Virginia
Oct.	12	Kent State
Oct.	19	at Western Michigan
Oct.	26	at Akron
Nov.	6	Central Michigan
Nov.	13	at Northern Illinois
Nov.	29	Miami (Ohio)

BOWLING GREEN (8-5, 6-2)
Bowling Green, OH

Aug.	29	Tulsa
Sept.	7	at Kent State
Sept.	14	at Indiana
Sept.	21	Murray State
Sept.	28	Akron
Oct.	5	Massachusetts
Oct.	12	at Mississippi State
Oct.	26	Toledo
Nov.	5	at Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	12	Ohio
Nov.	23	at Eastern Michigan
Nov.	29	at Buffalo

BUFFALO (4-8, 3-5)
Buffalo, NY

Aug.	31	at Ohio State
Sept.	7	at Baylor
Sept.	14	Stony Brook
Sept.	28	Connecticut
Oct.	5	Eastern Michigan
Oct.	12	at Western Michigan
Oct.	19	Massachusetts
Oct.	26	at Kent State
Nov.	5	Ohio
Nov.	12	at Toledo
Nov.	19	at Miami
Nov.	29	Bowling Green

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (7-6, 4-4)
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Aug.	31	at Michigan
Sept.	7	New Hampshire
Sept.	14	at UNLV
Sept.	21	Toledo
Sept.	28	at NC State
Oct.	5	at Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	12	at Ohio
Oct.	19	Northern Illinois
Nov.	6	at Ball State
Nov.	16	at Western Michigan
Nov.	23	Massachusetts
Nov.	29	Eastern Michigan

EASTERN MICHIGAN (2-10, 1-7)
Ypsilanti, MI

Aug.	31	Howard
Sept.	7	at Penn State
Sept.	14	at Rutgers
Sept.	21	Ball State
Oct.	5	at Buffalo
Oct.	12	at Army
Oct.	19	Ohio
Oct.	26	at Northern Illinois
Nov.	2	at Toledo
Nov.	9	Western Michigan
Nov.	23	Bowling Green
Nov.	29	at Central Michigan

KENT STATE (11-3, 8-0)
Kent, OH

Aug.	29	Liberty
Sept.	7	Bowling Green
Sept.	14	at LSU
Sept.	21	at Penn State
Sept.	28	at Western Michigan
Oct.	5	Northern Illinois
Oct.	12	at Ball State
Oct.	19	at South Alabama
Oct.	26	Buffalo
Nov.	2	at Akron
Nov.	13	Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	19	at Ohio

MASSACHUSETTS (1-11, 1-7)
Amherst, MA*

Aug.	31	at Wisconsin
Sept.	7	Maine
Sept.	14	at Kansas State
Sept.	21	Vanderbilt
Oct.	5	at Bowling Green
Oct.	12	Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	19	at Buffalo
Oct.	26	Western Michigan
Nov.	2	Northern Illinois
Nov.	16	Akron
Nov.	23	at Central Michigan
Nov.	29	at Ohio

*All home games at Gillette Field

MIAMI (OH) (4-8, 3-5)
Oxford, OH

Aug.	31	at Marshall
Sept.	7	at Kentucky
Sept.	21	Cincinnati
Sept.	28	at Illinois
Oct.	5	Central Michigan
Oct.	12	at Massachusetts
Oct.	19	Akron
Oct.	26	at Ohio
Nov.	5	Bowling Green
Nov.	13	at Kent State
Nov.	19	Buffalo
Nov.	29	at Ball State

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (12-2, 8-0)
Dekalb, IL

Aug.	31	at Iowa
Sept.	14	at Idaho
Sept.	21	Eastern Illinois
Sept.	28	at Purdue
Oct.	5	at Kent State
Oct.	12	Akron
Oct.	19	at Central Michigan
Oct.	26	Eastern Michigan
Nov.	2	at Massachusetts
Nov.	13	Ball State
Nov.	20	at Toledo
Nov.	26	Western Michigan

OHIO (9-4, 4-4)
Athens, OH

Aug.	31	at Louisville
Sept.	7	North Texas
Sept.	14	Marshall
Sept.	21	Austin Peay
Oct.	5	at Akron
Oct.	12	Central Michigan
Oct.	19	at Eastern Michigan
Oct.	26	Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	5	at Buffalo
Nov.	12	at Bowling Green
Nov.	19	Kent State
Nov.	29	Massachusetts

TOLEDO (9-4, 6-2)
Toledo, OH

Aug.	31	at Florida
Sept.	7	at Missouri
Sept.	14	Eastern Washington
Sept.	21	at Central Michigan
Sept.	28	at Ball State
Oct.	5	Western Michigan
Oct.	19	Navy
Oct.	26	at Bowling Green
Nov.	2	Eastern Michigan
Nov.	12	Buffalo
Nov.	20	Northern Illinois
Nov.	29	at Akron

WESTERN MICHIGAN (4-8, 2-6)
Kalamazoo, MI

Aug.	31	at Michigan State
Sept.	7	Nicholls State
Sept.	14	at Northwestern
Sept.	21	at Iowa
Sept.	28	Kent State
Oct.	5	at Toledo
Oct.	12	Buffalo
Oct.	19	Ball State
Oct.	26	at Massachusetts
Nov.	9	at Eastern Michigan
Nov.	16	Central Michigan
Nov.	26	at Northern Illinois

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE (6-7, 5-3)
Colorado Springs, CO

Aug.	31	Colgate
Sept.	7	Utah State
Sept.	13	at Boise State
Sept.	21	Wyoming
Sept.	28	at Nevada
Oct.	5	at Navy
Oct.	10	San Diego State
Oct.	26	Notre Dame
Nov.	2	Army
Nov.	8	at New Mexico
Nov.	21	UNLV
Nov.	30	at Colorado State

BOISE STATE (11-2, 7-1)
Boise, ID

Aug.	31	at Washington
Sept.	7	Tennessee-Martin
Sept.	13	Air Force
Sept.	20	at Fresno State
Sept.	28	Southern Miss
Oct.	12	at Utah State
Oct.	19	Nevada
Oct.	25	at BYU
Nov.	2	at Colorado State
Nov.	16	Wyoming
Nov.	23	at San Diego State
Nov.	30	New Mexico

COLORADO STATE (4-8, 3-5)
Fort Collins, CO

Sept.	1	vs. Colorado #
Sept.	7	at Tulsa
Sept.	14	Cal Poly
Sept.	21	at Alabama
Sept.	28	UTEP
Oct.	12	San Jose State
Oct.	19	at Wyoming
Oct.	26	at Hawaii
Nov.	2	Boise State
Nov.	9	Nevada
Nov.	16	at New Mexico
Nov.	23	at Utah State
Nov.	30	Air Force

#Denver, CO

FRESNO STATE (9-4, 7-1)
Fresno, CA

Aug.	29	Rutgers
Sept.	7	Cal Poly
Sept.	14	at Colorado
Sept.	20	Boise State
Sept.	28	at Hawaii
Oct.	5	at Idaho
Oct.	19	UNLV
Oct.	26	at San Diego State
Nov.	2	Nevada
Nov.	9	at Wyoming
Nov.	23	New Mexico
Nov.	29	at San Jose State

HAWAII (3-9, 1-7)
Honolulu, HI

Aug.	29	USC
Sept.	7	at Oregon State
Sept.	21	at Nevada
Sept.	28	Fresno State
Oct.	5	San Jose State
Oct.	12	at UNLV
Oct.	26	Colorado State
Nov.	2	at Utah State
Nov.	9	at Navy
Nov.	16	San Diego State
Nov.	23	at Wyoming
Nov.	30	Army

NEVADA (7-6, 4-4)
Reno, NV

Aug.	31	at UCLA
Sept.	7	UC Davis
Sept.	14	at Florida State
Sept.	21	Hawaii
Sept.	28	Air Force
Oct.	4	at San Diego State
Oct.	19	at Boise State
Oct.	26	UNLV
Nov.	2	at Fresno State
Nov.	9	at Colorado State
Nov.	16	San Jose State
Nov.	30	BYU

NEW MEXICO (4-9, 1-7)
Albuquerque, NM

Aug.	31	UTSA
Sept.	7	at UTEP
Sept.	14	at Pittsburgh
Sept.	28	UNLV
Oct.	5	New Mexico State
Oct.	12	at Wyoming
Oct.	19	Utah State
Nov.	2	at San Diego State
Nov.	8	Air Force
Nov.	16	Colorado State
Nov.	23	at Fresno State
Nov.	30	at Boise State

SAN DIEGO STATE (9-4, 7-1)
San Diego, CA

Aug.	31	Eastern Illinois
Sept.	7	at Ohio State
Sept.	21	Oregon State
Sept.	28	at New Mexico State
Oct.	4	Nevada
Oct.	10	at Air Force
Oct.	26	Fresno State
Nov.	2	New Mexico
Nov.	9	at San Jose State
Nov.	16	at Hawaii
Nov.	23	Boise State
Nov.	30	at UNLV

SAN JOSE STATE (11-2, 5-1 WAC)
San Jose, CA

Aug.	29	Sacramento State
Sept.	7	at Stanford
Sept.	21	at Minnesota
Sept.	27	Utah State
Oct.	5	at Hawaii
Oct.	12	at Colorado State
Oct.	26	Wyoming
Nov.	2	at UNLV
Nov.	9	San Diego State
Nov.	16	at Nevada
Nov.	23	Navy
Nov.	29	Fresno State

UNLV (2-11, 2-7)
Las Vegas, NV

Aug.	29	at Minnesota
Sept.	7	Arizona
Sept.	14	Central Michigan
Sept.	21	Western Illinois
Sept.	28	at New Mexico
Oct.	12	Hawaii
Oct.	19	at Fresno State
Oct.	26	at Nevada
Nov.	2	San Jose State
Nov.	9	Utah State
Nov.	21	at Air Force
Nov.	30	San Diego State

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- Profiled in: *Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post* and *Playboy.*
- Creator of the famous **"World Series of Handicapping"**
- Only sports handicapper to ever appear before the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.

Just check a partial list of my top plays from Last year's Record

OH St (-25) Miami-Ohio	56-10	WON	15 Units
Cowboys (+4) Giants	24-17	WON	10 Units
Cinn (-4½) Pittsburgh	34-10	WON	25 Units
Utah State (+7) Utah	27-20	WON	25 Units
San Diego St (-6½) Army	42-7	WON	25 Units
LA Tech (-3) Houston	56-42	WON	200 Units
49ers (+4½) Packers	30-22	WON	50 Units
Broncos (-1½) Steelers	31-19	WON	15 Units
Notre Dame (+6) Mich St	20-3	WON	15 Units
UL Monroe (-20) Tulane	63-10	WON	200 Units
Cincinnati (-20) Miami Ohio	52-14	WON	15 Units
Fresno St (-17½) CO St	28-7	WON	200 Units
Jets (-3½) Colts	35-9	WON	10 Units
Giants (+6½) 49ers	26-3	WON	15 Units
Syracuse (-4) Connecticut	40-10	WON	10 Units
Mich St (+9½) Michigan	10-12	WON	15 Units
Texans (-13) Dolphins	30-10	WON	100 Units
Notre Dame (+12½) Okla	30-13	WON	15 Units
Giants (-2½) Cowboys	29-24	WON	10 Units
GA Tech (-8½) Maryland	33-13	WON	15 Units
Panthers (+3) Redskins	21-13	WON	10 Units
Falcons (-3½) Cowboys	19-13	WON	15 Units
Texas A&M (+14) Alabama	29-24	WON	15 Units
Ravens (-7½) Raiders	55-20	WON	10 Units
Bengals (-3½) Chiefs	28-6	WON	10 Units
Patriots (-9½) Colts	59-24	WON	15 Units
Broncos (-10) Raiders	26-13	WON	10 Units
49ers (+4½) Patriots	41-34	WON	15 Units

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UTAH STATE (11-2, 6-0 WAC)
Logan, UT

Aug.	29	at Utah
Sept.	7	at Air Force
Sept.	14	Weber State
Sept.	21	at USC
Sept.	27	at San Jose State
Oct.	4	BYU
Oct.	12	Boise State
Oct.	19	at New Mexico
Nov.	2	Hawaii
Nov.	9	at UNLV
Nov.	23	Colorado State
Nov.	30	Wyoming

WYOMING (4-8, 3-5)
Laramie, WY

Aug.	31	at Nebraska
Sept.	7	Idaho
Sept.	14	Northern Colorado
Sept.	21	at Air Force
Sept.	28	at Texas State
Oct.	12	New Mexico
Oct.	19	Colorado State
Oct.	26	at San Jose State
Nov.	9	Fresno State
Nov.	16	at Boise State
Nov.	23	Hawaii
Nov.	30	at Utah State

PAC-12

ARIZONA (8-5, 4-5)
Tucson, AZ

Aug.	30	Northern Arizona
Sept.	7	at UNLV
Sept.	14	UTSA
Sept.	28	at Washington
Oct.	10	at USC
Oct.	19	Utah
Oct.	26	at Colorado
Nov.	2	at California
Nov.	9	UCLA
Nov.	16	Washington State
Nov.	23	Oregon
Nov.	30	at Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE (8-5, 5-4)
Tempe, AZ

Sept.	5	Sacramento State
Sept.	14	Wisconsin
Sept.	21	at Stanford
Sept.	28	USC
Oct.	5	vs. Notre Dame #
Oct.	12	Colorado
Oct.	19	Washington
Oct.	31	at Washington State
Nov.	9	at Utah
Nov.	16	Oregon State
Nov.	23	at UCLA
Nov.	30	Arizona
		#Arlington, TX

CALIFORNIA (3-9, 2-7)
Berkeley, CA

Aug.	31	Northwestern
Sept.	7	Portland State
Sept.	14	Ohio State
Sept.	28	at Oregon
Oct.	5	Washington State
Oct.	12	at UCLA
Oct.	19	Oregon State
Oct.	26	at Washington
Nov.	2	Arizona
Nov.	9	USC
Nov.	16	at Colorado
Nov.	23	at Stanford

COLORADO (1-11, 1-8)
Boulder, CO

Sept.	1	vs. Colorado State #
Sept.	7	Central Arkansas
Sept.	14	Fresno State
Sept.	28	at Oregon State
Oct.	5	Oregon
Oct.	12	at Arizona State
Oct.	26	Arizona
Nov.	2	at UCLA
Nov.	9	at Washington
Nov.	16	California
Nov.	23	USC
Nov.	30	at Utah
		#Denver, CO

OREGON (12-1, 8-1)
Eugene, OR

Aug.	31	Nicholls State
Sept.	7	at Virginia
Sept.	14	Tennessee
Sept.	28	California
Oct.	5	at Colorado
Oct.	12	at Washington
Oct.	19	Washington State
Oct.	26	UCLA
Nov.	7	at Stanford
Nov.	16	Utah
Nov.	23	at Arizona
Nov.	29	Oregon State

OREGON STATE (9-4, 6-3)
Corvallis, OR

Aug.	31	Eastern Washington
Sept.	7	Hawaii
Sept.	14	at Utah
Sept.	21	at San Diego State
Sept.	28	Colorado
Oct.	12	at Washington State
Oct.	19	at California
Oct.	26	Stanford
Nov.	1	USC
Nov.	16	at Arizona State
Nov.	23	Washington
Nov.	29	at Oregon

STANFORD (12-2, 8-1)
Stanford, CA

Sept.	7	San Jose State
Sept.	14	at Army
Sept.	21	Arizona State
Sept.	28	vs. Washington State #
Oct.	5	Washington
Oct.	12	at Utah
Oct.	19	UCLA
Oct.	26	at Oregon State
Nov.	7	Oregon
Nov.	16	at USC
Nov.	23	California
Nov.	30	Notre Dame
		#Seattle, WA

UCLA (9-5, 6-3)
Los Angeles, CA

Aug.	31	Nevada
Sept.	14	at Nebraska
Sept.	21	New Mexico State
Oct.	3	at Utah
Oct.	12	California
Oct.	19	at Stanford
Oct.	26	at Oregon
Nov.	2	Colorado
Nov.	9	at Arizona
Nov.	15	Washington
Nov.	23	Arizona State
Nov.	30	at USC

USC (7-6, 5-4)
Los Angeles, CA

Aug.	29	at Hawaii
Sept.	7	Washington State
Sept.	14	Boston College
Sept.	21	Utah State
Sept.	28	at Arizona State
Oct.	10	Arizona
Oct.	19	at Notre Dame
Oct.	26	Utah
Nov.	1	at Oregon State
Nov.	9	at California
Nov.	16	Stanford
Nov.	23	at Colorado
Nov.	30	UCLA

UTAH (5-7, 3-6)
Salt Lake City, UT

Aug.	29	Utah State
Sept.	7	Weber State
Sept.	14	Oregon State
Sept.	21	at BYU
Oct.	3	UCLA
Oct.	12	Stanford
Oct.	19	at Arizona
Oct.	26	at USC
Nov.	9	Arizona State
Nov.	16	at Oregon
Nov.	23	at Washington State
Nov.	30	Colorado

WASHINGTON (7-6, 5-4)
Seattle, WA

Aug.	31	Boise State
Sept.	14	vs. Illinois #
Sept.	21	Idaho State
Sept.	28	Arizona
Oct.	5	at Stanford
Oct.	12	Oregon
Oct.	19	at Arizona State
Oct.	26	California
Nov.	9	Colorado
Nov.	15	at UCLA
Nov.	23	at Oregon State
Nov.	29	Washington State
		#Chicago, IL

WASHINGTON STATE (3-9, 1-8)
Pullman, WA

Aug.	31	at Auburn
Sept.	7	at USC
Sept.	14	Southern Utah
Sept.	21	Idaho
Sept.	28	Stanford #
Oct.	5	at California
Oct.	12	Oregon State
Oct.	19	at Oregon
Oct.	31	Arizona State
Nov.	16	at Arizona
Nov.	23	Utah
Nov.	29	at Washington
		#Seattle, WA

SEC

ALABAMA (13-1, 7-1)
Tuscaloosa, AL

Aug.	31	vs. Virginia Tech #
Sept.	14	at Texas A&M
Sept.	21	Colorado State
Sept.	28	Ole Miss
Oct.	5	Georgia State
Oct.	12	at Kentucky
Oct.	19	Arkansas
Oct.	26	Tennessee
Nov.	9	LSU
Nov.	16	at Mississippi State
Nov.	23	Chattanooga
Nov.	30	at Auburn
		#Atlanta, GA

ARKANSAS (4-8, 2-6)
Fayetteville, AR

Aug.	31	UL Lafayette
Sept.	7	vs. Samford #
Sept.	14	Southern Miss
Sept.	21	at Rutgers
Sept.	28	Texas A&M
Oct.	5	at Florida
Oct.	12	South Carolina
Oct.	19	at Alabama
Nov.	2	Auburn
Nov.	9	at Ole Miss
Nov.	23	vs. Mississippi State #
Nov.	30	at LSU
		#Little Rock, AR

AUBURN (3-9, 0-8)
Auburn, AL

Aug.	31	Washington State
Sept.	7	Arkansas State
Sept.	14	Mississippi State
Sept.	21	at LSU
Oct.	5	Ole Miss
Oct.	12	Western Carolina
Oct.	19	at Texas A&M
Oct.	26	Florida Atlantic
Nov.	2	at Arkansas
Nov.	9	at Tennessee
Nov.	16	Georgia
Nov.	30	Alabama

FLORIDA (11-2, 7-1)
Gainesville, FL

Aug.	31	Toledo
Sept.	7	at Miami
Sept.	21	Tennessee
Sept.	28	at Kentucky
Oct.	5	Arkansas
Oct.	12	at LSU
Oct.	19	at Missouri
Nov.	2	vs. Georgia #
Nov.	9	Vanderbilt
Nov.	16	at South Carolina
Nov.	23	Georgia Southern
Nov.	30	Florida State
		#Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA (12-2, 7-1)
Athens, GA

Aug.	31	at Clemson
Sept.	7	South Carolina
Sept.	21	North Texas
Sept.	28	LSU
Oct.	5	at Tennessee
Oct.	12	Missouri
Oct.	19	at Vanderbilt
Nov.	2	vs. Florida #
Nov.	9	Appalachian State
Nov.	16	at Auburn
Nov.	23	Kentucky
Nov.	30	at Georgia Tech
		#Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY (2-10, 0-8)
Lexington, KY

Aug.	31	vs. Western KY #
Sept.	7	Miami (Ohio)
Sept.	14	Louisville
Sept.	28	Florida
Oct.	5	at South Carolina
Oct.	12	Alabama
Oct.	24	at Mississippi State
Nov.	2	Alabama State
Nov.	9	Missouri
Nov.	16	at Vanderbilt
Nov.	23	at Georgia
Nov.	30	Tennessee
		#Nashville, TN

LSU (10-3, 6-2)
Baton Rouge, LA

Aug.	31	vs. TCU #
Sept.	7	UAB
Sept.	14	Kent State
Sept.	21	Auburn
Sept.	28	at Georgia
Oct.	5	at Mississippi State
Oct.	12	Florida
Oct.	19	at Ole Miss
Oct.	26	Furman
Nov.	9	at Alabama
Nov.	23	Texas A&M
Nov.	30	Arkansas
		#Arlington, TX

MISSISSIPPI STATE (8-5, 4-4)
Starkville, MS

Aug.	31	vs. Oklahoma State #
Sept.	7	Alcorn State
Sept.	14	at Auburn
Sept.	21	Troy
Oct.	5	LSU
Oct.	12	Bowling Green
Oct.	24	Kentucky
Nov.	2	at South Carolina
Nov.	9	at Texas A&M
Nov.	16	Alabama
Nov.	23	vs. Arkansas %
Nov.	28	Ole Miss
		#Houston, TX %Little Rock, AR

MISSOURI (5-7, 2-6)
Columbia, MO

Aug.	31	Murray State
Sept.	7	Toledo
Sept.	21	at Indiana
Sept.	28	Arkansas State
Oct.	5	at Vanderbilt
Oct.	12	at Georgia
Oct.	19	Florida
Oct.	26	South Carolina
Nov.	2	Tennessee
Nov.	9	at Kentucky
Nov.	23	at Ole Miss
Nov.	30	Texas A&M

OLE MISS (7-6, 3-5)
Oxford, MS

Aug.	29	at Vanderbilt
Sept.	7	SE Missouri State
Sept.	14	at Texas
Sept.	28	at Alabama
Oct.	5	at Auburn
Oct.	12	Texas A&M
Oct.	19	LSU
Oct.	26	Idaho
Nov.	9	Arkansas
Nov.	16	Troy
Nov.	23	Missouri
Nov.	28	at Mississippi State

SOUTH CAROLINA (11-2, 6-2)
Columbia, SC

Aug.	29	North Carolina
Sept.	7	at Georgia
Sept.	14	Vanderbilt
Sept.	28	at UCF
Oct.	5	Kentucky
Oct.	12	at Arkansas
Oct.	19	at Tennessee
Oct.	26	at Missouri
Nov.	2	Mississippi State
Nov.	16	Florida
Nov.	23	Coastal Carolina
Nov.	30	Clemson

TENNESSEE (5-7, 1-7)
Knoxville, TN

Aug.	31	Austin Peay
Sept.	7	Western Kentucky
Sept.	14	at Oregon
Sept.	21	at Florida
Sept.	28	South Alabama
Oct.	5	Georgia
Oct.	19	South Carolina
Oct.	26	at Alabama
Nov.	2	at Missouri
Nov.	9	Auburn
Nov.	23	Vanderbilt
Nov.	30	at Kentucky

TEXAS A&M (11-2, 6-2)
College Station, TX

Aug.	31	Rice
Sept.	7	Sam Houston State
Sept.	14	Alabama
Sept.	21	SMU
Sept.	28	at Arkansas
Oct.	12	at Ole Miss
Oct.	19	Auburn
Oct.	26	Vanderbilt
Nov.	2	UTEP
Nov.	9	Mississippi State
Nov.	23	at LSU
Nov.	30	at Missouri

VANDERBILT (9-4, 5-3)
Nashville, TN

Aug.	29	Ole Miss
Sept.	7	Austin Peay
Sept.	14	at South Carolina
Sept.	21	at Massachusetts
Sept.	28	UAB
Oct.	5	Missouri
Oct.	19	Georgia
Oct.	26	at Texas A&M
Nov.	9	at Florida
Nov.	16	Kentucky
Nov.	23	at Tennessee
Nov.	30	Wake Forest

SUN BELT

ARKANSAS STATE (10-3, 7-1)
Jonesboro, AR

Aug.	31	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept.	7	at Auburn
Sept.	12	Troy
Sept.	21	at Memphis
Sept.	28	at Missouri
Oct.	12	Idaho
Oct.	22	UL Lafayette
Nov.	2	at South Alabama
Nov.	9	at UL Monroe
Nov.	16	Texas State
Nov.	23	Georgia State
Nov.	30	at Western Kentucky

GEORGIA STATE (1-10, 1-7 Colonial)
Atlanta, GA

Aug.	30	Samford
Sept.	7	Chattanooga
Sept.	14	at West Virginia
Sept.	21	Jacksonville State
Oct.	5	at Alabama
Oct.	12	Troy
Oct.	19	at Texas State
Oct.	26	at UL Monroe
Nov.	2	Western Kentucky
Nov.	16	UL Lafayette
Nov.	23	at Arkansas State
Nov.	30	South Alabama

UL LAFAYETTE (9-4, 6-2)
Lafayette, LA

Aug.	31	at Arkansas
Sept.	7	at Kansas State
Sept.	14	Nicholls State
Sept.	21	at Akron
Oct.	5	Texas State
Oct.	15	at Western Kentucky
Oct.	22	at Arkansas State
Nov.	2	New Mexico State
Nov.	7	Troy
Nov.	16	at Georgia State
Nov.	30	UL Monroe
Dec.	7	at South Alabama

UL MONROE (8-5, 6-2)
Monroe, LA

Aug.	31	at Oklahoma
Sept.	7	Grambling State
Sept.	14	at Wake Forest
Sept.	21	at Baylor
Sept.	28	Tulane
Oct.	3	Western Kentucky
Oct.	12	at Texas State
Oct.	26	Georgia State
Oct.	31	at Troy
Nov.	9	Arkansas State
Nov.	23	at South Alabama
Nov.	30	at UL Lafayette

SOUTH ALABAMA (2-11, 1-7)
Mobile, AL

Aug.	29	Southern Utah
Sept.	7	at Tulane
Sept.	14	Western Kentucky
Sept.	28	at Tennessee
Oct.	5	at Troy
Oct.	19	Kent State
Oct.	26	at Texas State
Nov.	2	Arkansas State
Nov.	16	at Navy
Nov.	23	UL Monroe
Nov.	30	at Georgia State
Dec.	7	UL Lafayette

TEXAS STATE (4-8, 2-4 WAC)
San Marcos, TX

Aug.	31	at Southern Miss
Sept.	7	Prairie View A&M
Sept.	21	at Texas Tech
Sept.	28	Wyoming
Oct.	5	at UL Lafayette
Oct.	12	UL Monroe
Oct.	19	Georgia State
Oct.	26	South Alabama
Nov.	2	at Idaho
Nov.	16	at Arkansas State
Nov.	23	Western Kentucky
Nov.	29	at Troy

TROY (5-7, 3-5)
Troy, AL

Aug.	31	UAB
Sept.	7	Savannah State
Sept.	12	at Arkansas State
Sept.	21	at Mississippi State
Sept.	28	at Duke
Oct.	5	South Alabama
Oct.	12	at Georgia State
Oct.	26	at Western Kentucky
Oct.	31	UL Monroe
Nov.	7	at UL Lafayette
Nov.	16	at Ole Miss
Nov.	29	Texas State

WESTERN KENTUCKY (7-6, 4-4)
Bowling Green, KY

Aug.	31	vs. Kentucky #
Sept.	7	at Tennessee
Sept.	14	at South Alabama
Sept.	21	Morgan State
Sept.	28	Navy
Oct.	3	at UL Monroe
Oct.	15	UL Lafayette
Oct.	26	Troy
Nov.	2	at Georgia State
Nov.	9	at Army
Nov.	23	at Texas State
Nov.	30	Arkansas State
		#Nashville, TN

INDEPENDENTS

ARMY (2-10)
West Point, NY

Aug.	31	Morgan State
Sept.	7	at Ball State
Sept.	14	Stanford
Sept.	21	Wake Forest
Sept.	28	vs. Louisiana Tech #
Oct.	5	at Boston College
Oct.	12	Eastern Michigan
Oct.	19	at Temple
Nov.	2	at Air Force
Nov.	9	Western Kentucky
Nov.	30	at Hawaii
Dec.	14	vs. Navy %
		#Dallas, TX %Philadelphia, PA

BYU (8-5)
Provo, UT

Aug.	31	at Virginia
Sept.	7	Texas
Sept.	21	Utah
Sept.	27	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	4	at Utah State
Oct.	12	Georgia Tech
Oct.	19	at Houston
Oct.	25	Boise State
Nov.	9	at Wisconsin
Nov.	16	Idaho State
Nov.	23	at Notre Dame
Nov.	30	at Nevada

IDAHO (1-11, 1-5 WAC)
Moscow, ID

Aug.	31	at North Texas
Sept.	7	at Wyoming
Sept.	14	Northern Illinois
Sept.	21	at Washington State
Sept.	28	Temple
Oct.	5	Fresno State
Oct.	12	at Arkansas State
Oct.	26	at Ole Miss
Nov.	2	Texas State
Nov.	9	Old Dominion
Nov.	23	at Florida State
Nov.	30	at New Mexico State

NAVY (8-5)
Annapolis, MD

Sept.	7	at Indiana
Sept.	14	Delaware
Sept.	28	at Western Kentucky
Oct.	5	Air Force
Oct.	12	at Duke
Oct.	19	at Toledo
Oct.	26	Pittsburgh
Nov.	2	at Notre Dame
Nov.	9	Hawaii
Nov.	16	South Alabama
Nov.	23	at San Jose State
Dec.	14	vs. Army #
		#Philadelphia, PA

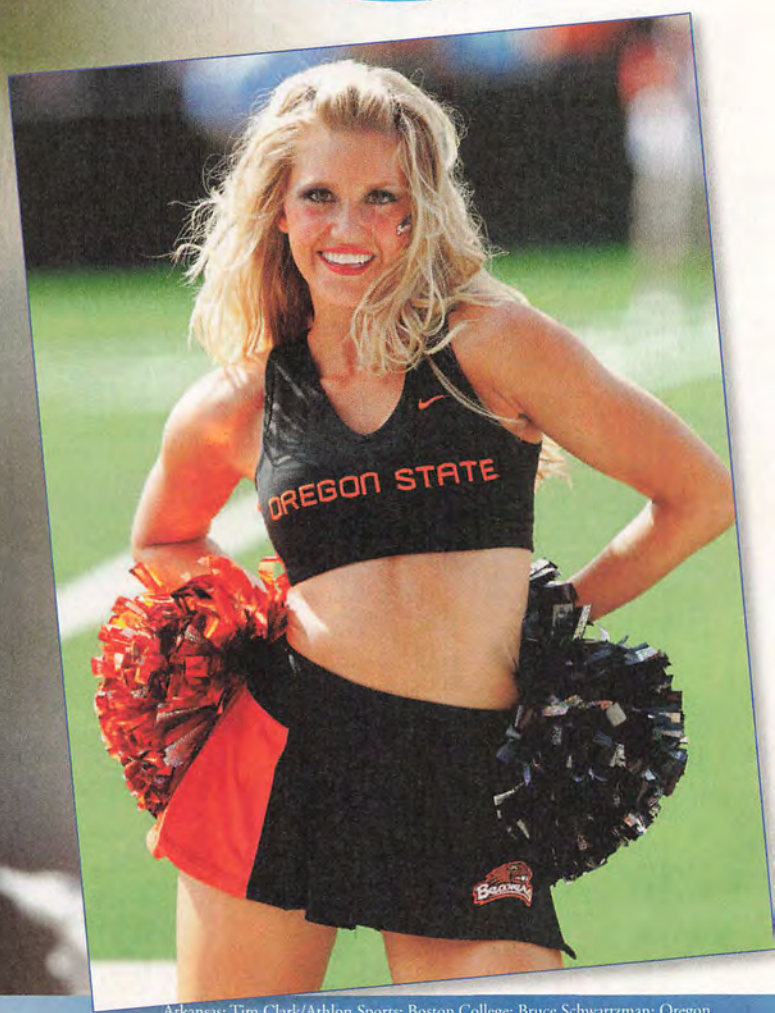
NEW MEXICO STATE (1-11, 0-6 WAC)
Las Cruces, NM

Aug.	31	at Texas
Sept.	7	Minnesota
Sept.	14	UTEP
Sept.	21	at UCLA
Sept.	28	San Diego State
Oct.	5	at New Mexico
Oct.	19	Rice
Oct.	26	Abilene Christian
Nov.	2	at UL Lafayette
Nov.	9	Boston College
Nov.	23	at Florida Atlantic
Nov.	30	Idaho

NOTRE DAME (12-1)
South Bend, IN

Aug.	8	Temple
Sept.	7	at Michigan
Sept.	14	at Purdue
Sept.	21	Michigan State
Sept.	28	Oklahoma
Oct.	5	vs. Arizona State #
Oct.	19	USC
Oct.	26	at Air Force
Nov.	2	Navy
Nov.	9	at Pittsburgh
Nov.	23	BYU
Nov.	30	at Stanford
		#Arlington, TX

SIDELINE SPIRIT™



Arkansas: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Boston College: Bruce Schwartzman; Oregon State: Steve Dipaola

Football is here. Wayne Root is here. And one word makes the perfect connection

MILLIONAIRE

Understand from the start you can't be a millionaire unless you're ready to take a big bite out of life. How big are your chops? Me? I'm ready to swallow Vegas in one gulp! Crazy? It goes with the territory!

You can't put a customer's money at risk unless you have monstrous self-confidence. You have to have an **unswerving** belief that you are about to save his weekend, his retirement and his dynasty. That is how I feel about you! And I back it up with a documented record in the sealed archives of **The Sports Monitor!** – The most unimpeachable documenting authority in sports betting! You've got to wonder **"How can any person be that sharp."**

BUT Wayne Allyn Root is NOT one person. Any more than Bill Gates or Steve Jobs. Microsoft was not the work of one man but a thousand-man team of programmers who all became millionaires under Bill Gates' direction. Pixar was a team of computer animators going nowhere till Steve Jobs figured out how to make them rich.

Well, I have figured out how to make you rich – if you have the ambition and the sticktuitiveness. After all, if we're both playing the same games, why can't we both make the same money? And don't tell me, "Ah, Wayne you bet bigger than I do." **I'VE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES!** ***I started from ground zero.*** Son of a butcher in Mt. Vernon, New York. All I had was the American Dream and a determination to prove I could double my money in one afternoon. And I did it! I started with nothing. Today my footprints are on Las Vegas's Walk of the Stars- I'm the only handicapper or odds-maker EVER honored. My *Rags to Riches* story even tickles Wall Street. The result- the biggest TV shows on networks like *CNBC and Fox Business, the Wall Street Journal, CNNMoney, Fortune, Equities, Worth, and Crains NY Business* have all featured Wayne Allyn Root. The national media thinks Wayne Allyn Root is a big time story. **And now it's YOUR turn to benefit from my world-class advice!**

In fact, you're in a better position than I was. When I started out, my talent was ***raw*** - still in the formative stages! By now you have the complete, mature Wayne Allyn Root picking for you, with most of my mistakes behind me.

So you don't have to have fabulous numbers or seasoned judgment. You don't need x's & o's and man matchups and an instinct when to go against the crowd. You don't have to study a book or method or read up on sports or browse the internet. All you have to do is play the games I give you. And with a regularity that will amaze and delight you, ***I will make you rich.***

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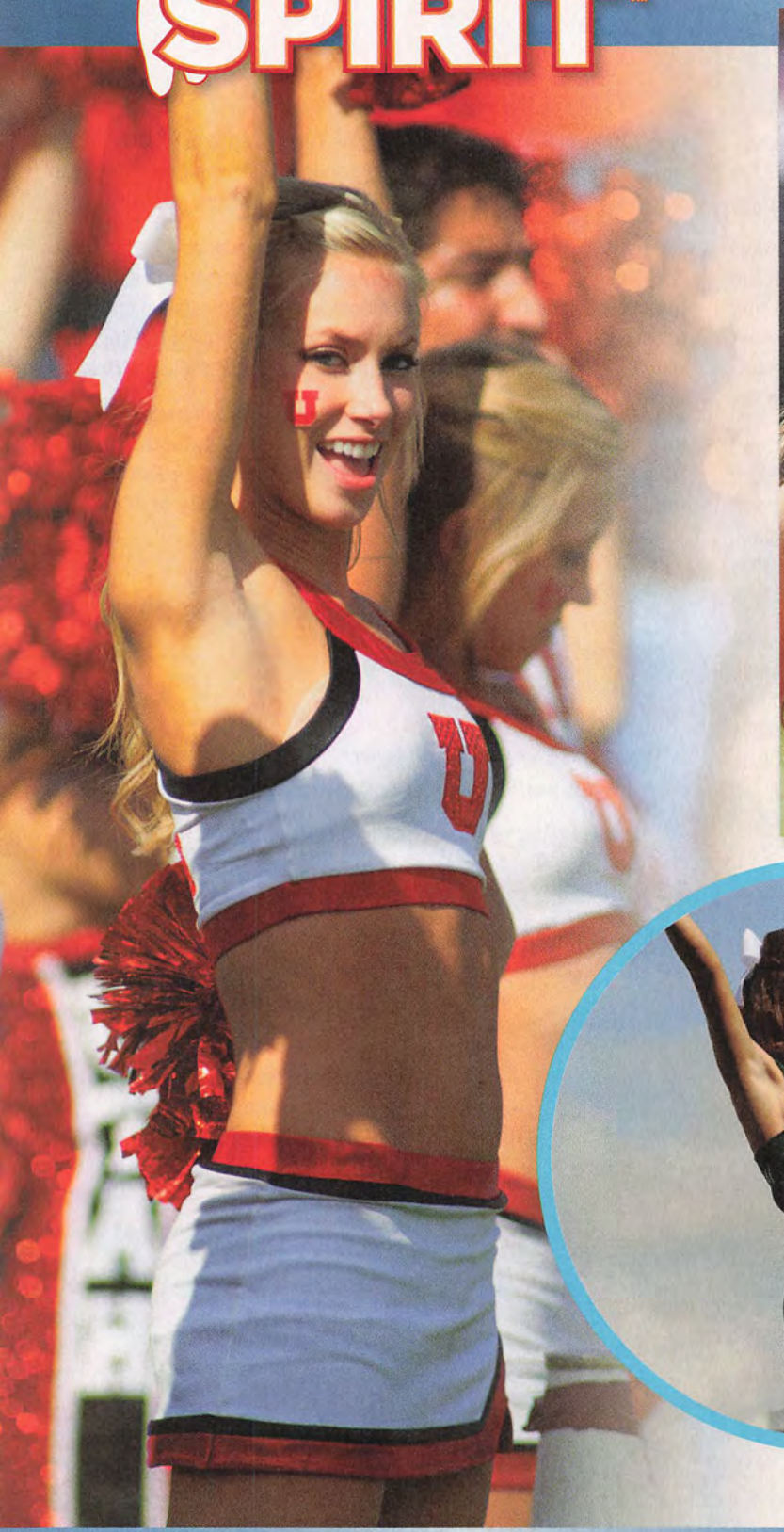

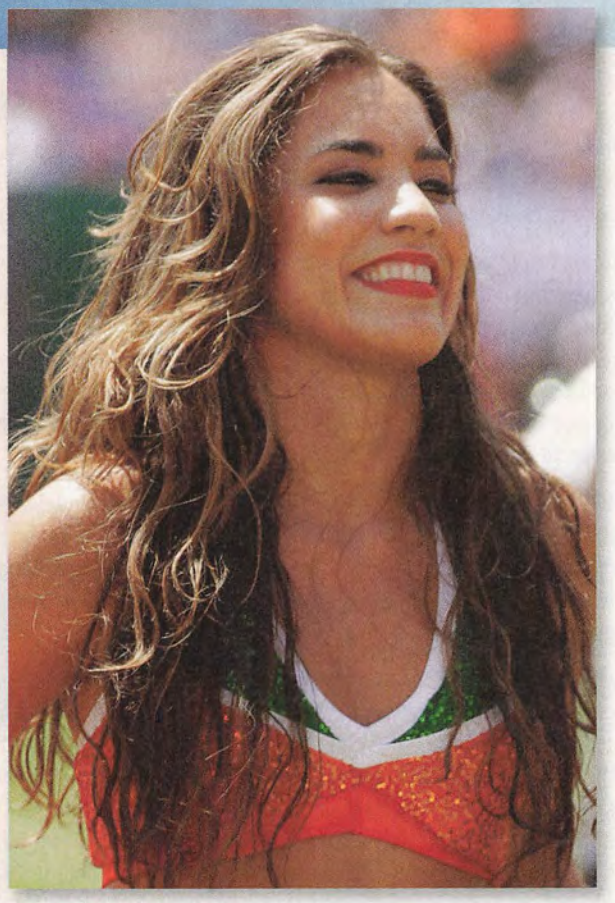

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Best of 2012 College Football Cheerleaders

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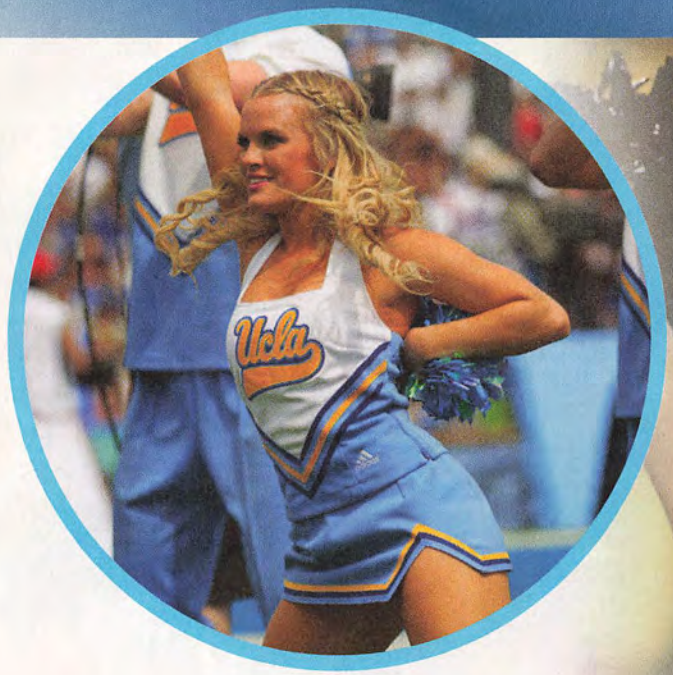
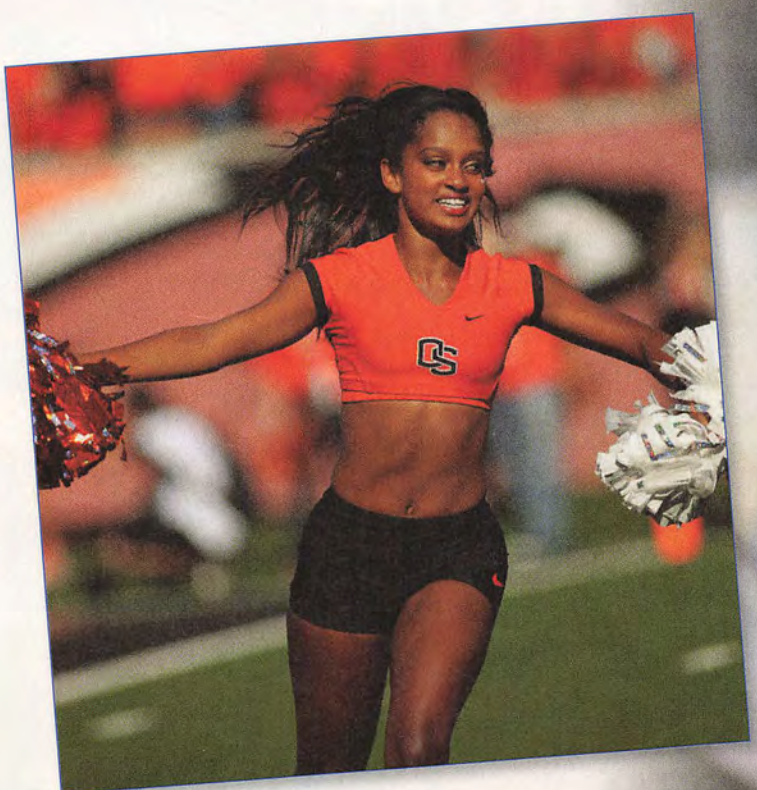
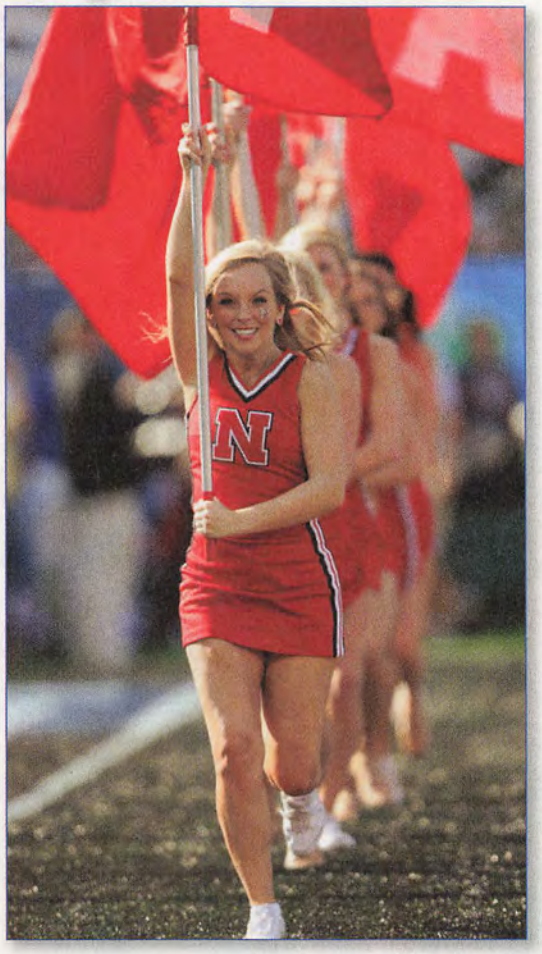




Utah, UCLA: Peter Brouillet; Miami: Margaret Bowles; Baylor: Bruce Schwartzman; Oregon, Oregon State: Steve Dipaola

SIDELINE SPIRIT™



Nebraska: Tom DiPace; USC: Peter Brouillet; Auburn: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

When you're resolved to win, there's only one rule

LET THE MAN WHO MAKES THE LINE SHOW YOU HOW TO BREAK THE LINE

Meet *"Richie B"* – Richard Baccellieri – Master linesmaker with a 27-year win streak, a ton of confidence, a fixation on **the Right Number** and **a determination to make you money.**

Now that I have returned to my first love, betting, I am still making unshakable numbers, **Only now I'm making them to beat the house.** ***And who would know better?*** I have all the sources and know all the moves: the pipeline, what the real number is, why they change it, **how far off it is** and ***which games are giving us the most points!*** Hey, this is my turf! Last year – my first year as a public handicapper – **I won 17 weeks out of 22.** Check how I started my season. **Then Call 1-888-546-4875.**

AFTER GOING 15-6 IN THE PRESEASON I KICKED OFF THE SEASON: 71.4%		
WEEK ONE: 4-1		
UNLV +8½ Minn	27-30	W
BoiseSt +7 Mich St	13-17	W
Illinois-10 W Mich	24-7	W
WashSt +12½ BYU	6-30	L
Ohio +6½ Penn St	24-14	W
WEEK TWO: 5-2		
Utah St +7 Utah	27-20	W
Ariz +11 Okla St	16-14	W
Cowboys +3½ Giants	24-17	W
Titans +6 Pats	13-34	L
Jets -3 Bills	48-28	W
Cards +3 S'hawks	20-16	W
Raidrs -1 Chargrs	14-22	L
WEEK THREE: 5-1		
Navy +7 Penn St	7-34	L
Colts +3 Vikings	23-20	W
NotreD +6 Mich St	20-3	W
Rams +3½ R'skins	31-28	W
49ers -7 Lions	27-19	W
Falcs -3 Broncs	27-21	W
WEEK FOUR: 4-2		
Notre D -6 Mich	13-6	W
Syracuse -1 Minn	10-17	L
Colts -3 Jags	17-22	L
Cards +3½ Eagles	27-6	W
Pats +2 Ravens	30-31	W
S'hawks +3½ Pack	14-12	W

My August-September total was 33-12...
21 NET WINS!
I GUARANTEE YOU A REPEAT THIS YEAR.

For my 60-DAY GUARANTEE. You MUST make MEGABUCKS. Play the same games I play myself. Start with the **Hall of Fame Game**, Sunday Aug. 4th, Colts vs Cowboys, followed by a stream of August winners. Then roll your profits over in September for a total of around 60 games. **By Ocobert 1st you MUST have gone at least 70% & cleared 21 Net Winners** or you get **October FREE. Cost? Only $99,** which you can recoup with one play. *Thereafter it's sheer gravy!* **AND** you'll be getting **ALL** my **TOP BONUS GAMES**, like my:

Hall of Fame Game:	Saints (-2½) Cardinals	17-10	WON
Pre Season Game of Year:	Steelers (-3) Bills	38-7	WON
Sept College Game of Year:	Arizona (+11) Okla St	16-14	WON
Sept Pro Game of Year:	Cardinals (+3½) Eagles	27-6	WON
PLUS on Sat Aug 31 play these 2 new College Classics			**FREE**
The Cowboy Classic	TCU vs LSU	ESPN 9:00 pm	
The Kickoff Game	Va Tech vs Alabama	ESPN 5:30pm	

Or **COME IN FOR THE FULL SEASON** and get 22 weeks of **solid winning – that's three times as many plays – including more Games of the Year plays** – for the all-inclusive price **$199.**

What a deal – A chance to play with #1 and win like #1. And best of all, you'll never have to wonder where the right number is or who the wise guys like. Because from now on...

YOU'VE got the right number and YOU'RE the wise guy!

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or at: www.RichieBWins.com

"Richie B is amazing. He treats every game as if it's the only game on the board... And he MUST get it right!" **Rick Herron,** former manager Hilton Superbook.

"Whenever there's a question about a game, inevitably someone says, 'What does Richie B say?' That says it all." **Jimmy Vaccaro,** Dean of Las Vegas Linesmakers

Perhaps **Kenny White** head man at Don Best Sports summed it up best *"When Richie B was a linesmaker, the house was always safe and protected... Now that Richie B is for the bettors, It's the bettors who feel safe & protected!"*

They Called Me the Contrarian Linesmaker.

I went against the grain. I didn't use the *"clone"* lines put up by the other sports books. I went my own way. If they said Florida (-7) and I knew it should be (-9), I'd put up (-9) and dare all comers to try and beat it. Pretty soon sharps & computer wise guys were flocking to **Caesar's Palace, the MGM-Grand & The Palms** to have a whack at my number. Sure, they beat me now and again, but *I beat them MORE.* I won respect. I was one of only 3 or 4 guys who could put up a number and make it stick.

I was "Mr. Right Number"

But nothing lasts forever, Vegas changed. Used to be, linesmakers and bettors were the same kind of people: opponents but sporting opponents. But not after the corporate suits took over. Now it was "Squeeze' -em for every dime." Big books started gobbling up little books. They called it "consolidation." I called it monopoly. When I realized it wasn't going to change, I left.

For 27 years I helped them beat you. ***Now I'm going to help YOU BEAT THEM!***

RICHIE BACCELLIERI TheRightNumber 3540 WEST SAHARA AVE., SUITE 732 ❖ LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102-5816

RECRUITING ATHLON CONSENSUS TOP 100

presented by Wrangler

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Robert Nkemdiche	DE	6'5"	270	Loganville, GA	Ole Miss
2.	Jaylon Smith	LB	6'3"	220	Ft. Wayne, IN	Notre Dame
3.	Vernon Hargreaves III	DB	5'11"	185	Tampa, FL	Florida
4.	Laremy Tunsil	OL	6'6"	320	Lake City, FL	Ole Miss
5.	Su'a Cravens	DB	6'3"	215	Murrieta, CA	USC
6.	Eddie Vanderdoes	DL	6'3"	285	Auburn, CA	Notre Dame
7.	Reuben Foster	LB	6'1"	244	Auburn, AL	Alabama
8.	Matthew Thomas	LB	6'3"	205	Miami, FL	Florida State
9.	Kenny Bigelow	DL	6'3"	295	Elkton, MD	USC
10.	Montravius Adams	DT	6'3"	315	Vienna, GA	Auburn
11.	Max Browne	QB	6'5"	215	Sammamish, WA	USC
12.	Derrick Henry	RB	6'3"	242	Yulee, FL	Alabama
13.	Christian Hackenberg	QB	6'3"	215	Palmyra, VA	Penn State
14.	Laquon Treadwell	WR	6'3"	198	Crete, IL	Ole Miss
15.	Jalen Ramsey	DB	6'0"	189	Nashville, TN	Florida State
16.	Kendall Fuller	CB	5'11"	180	Baltimore, MD	Virginia Tech
17.	Jonathan Allen	LB	6'3"	264	Leesburg, VA	Alabama
18.	Chris Jones	DE	6'5"	250	Houston, MS	Mississippi State
19.	O.J. Howard	TE	6'6"	235	Prattville, AL	Alabama
20.	Thomas Tyner	RB	5'11"	201	Aloha, OR	Oregon
21.	Carl Lawson	DE	6'2"	250	Alpharetta, GA	Auburn
22.	Kelvin Taylor	RB	5'11"	216	Belle Glade, FL	Florida
23.	Robert Foster	WR	6'3"	187	Monaca, PA	Alabama
24.	Keith Ford	RB	5'11"	208	Cypress, TX	Oklahoma
25.	Ricky Seals-Jones	WR	6'5"	225	Sealy, TX	Texas A&M
26.	Derrick Green	RB	5'11"	220	Richmond, VA	Michigan
27.	Vonn Bell	S	6'1"	190	Rossville, GA	Ohio State
28.	Robbie Rhodes	WR	6'0"	185	Ft. Worth, TX	Baylor
29.	Max Redfield	DB	6'2"	195	Mission Viejo, CA	Notre Dame
30.	Mackensie Alexander	DB	5'11"	185	Immokalee, FL	Clemson
31.	Leon McQuay III	DB	6'2"	185	Seffner, FL	USC
32.	Tony Conner	DB	6'2"	205	Batesville, MS	Ole Miss
33.	Darius James	OL	6'5"	319	Killeen, TX	Texas
34.	A'Shawn Robinson	DL	6'4"	320	Ft. Worth, TX	Alabama
35.	Jalin Marshall	WR	6'0"	190	Middletown, OH	Ohio State
36.	DeMarcus Walker	DE	6'3"	265	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
37.	Joey Bosa	DL	6'5"	270	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ohio State
38.	Kent Perkins	OL	6'5"	300	Dallas, TX	Texas
39.	Priest Willis	DB	6'2"	185	Tempe, AZ	UCLA
40.	Derrick Griffin	WR	6'6"	215	Rosenberg, TX	Miami
41.	Alex Collins	RB	5'11"	207	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Arkansas
42.	Alvin Kamara	RB	5'10"	195	Norcross, GA	Alabama
43.	Dorian Johnson	OL	6'5"	290	Belle Vernon, PA	Pitt
44.	Adam Breneman	TE	6'4"	230	Cedar Cliff, PA	Penn State
45.	Tre'Davious White	DB	5'10"	170	Shreveport, LA	LSU
46.	Greg Bryant	RB	5'11"	200	Delray Beach, FL	Notre Dame
47.	Dee Liner	DL	6'3"	281	Muscle Shoals, AL	Alabama
48.	Al-Quadin Muhammad	DE	6'3"	230	Irvington, NJ	Miami
49.	Eli Apple	CB	6'0"	184	Voorhees, NJ	Ohio State
50.	Elijah Daniel	DE	6'4"	250	Avon, IN	Auburn
51.	Ryan Green	RB	5'10"	187	St. Petersburg, FL	Florida State
52.	Chris Hawkins	DB	6'0"	170	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	USC
53.	Altee Tenpenny	RB	6'0"	207	North Little Rock, AR	Alabama
54.	Alexander Anzalone	LB	6'3"	220	Wyomissing, PA	Florida
55.	Ty Isaac	RB	6'3"	225	Shorewood, IL	USC
56.	Daniel McMillian	LB	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
57.	Ethan Pocic	OL	6'7"	285	Lemont, IL	LSU
58.	Mike Mitchell	LB	6'4"	225	Plano, TX	Ohio State
59.	Holland Fisher	S	6'2"	200	Richmond, VA	Virginia Tech
60.	Taquan Mizell	RB	5'10"	185	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia
61.	Cam Burrows	CB	5'11"	200	Trotwood, OH	Ohio State
62.	Grant Hill	OL	6'6"	301	Huntsville, AL	Alabama
63.	James Quick	WR	6'1"	180	Louisville, KY	Louisville
64.	Stacy Coley	WR	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Miami
65.	Tyren Jones	RB	5'9"	215	Marietta, GA	Alabama
66.	Tahaan Goodman	DB	6'2"	190	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	UCLA
67.	Steven Mitchell	WR	5'10"	180	Pasadena, CA	USC
68.	Patrick Kugler	OL	6'5"	280	Wexford, PA	Michigan
69.	Ezekiel Elliott	RB	6'0"	210	St. Louis, MO	Ohio State
70.	Frank Herron	DE	6'5"	245	Memphis, TN	LSU
71.	Dontre Wilson	ATH	5'10"	174	DeSoto, TX	Ohio State
72.	Dymonte Thomas	DB	6'2"	195	Alliance, OH	Michigan
73.	Greg Gilmore	DT	6'4"	275	Hope Mills, NC	LSU
74.	Shane Morris	QB	6'3"	183	Warren, MI	Michigan
75.	Justin Manning	DT	6'1"	270	Dallas, TX	Texas A&M
76.	Cooper Bateman	QB	6'3"	215	Murray, UT	Alabama
77.	Kendell Beckwith	LB	6'3"	225	Jackson, LA	LSU
78.	Marcell Harris	DB	6'2"	220	Orlando, FL	Florida
79.	Demore'ea Stringfellow	WR	6'3"	215	Perris, CA	Washington
80.	Evan Lisle	OL	6'6"	290	Centerville, OH	Ohio State
81.	Demarcus Robinson	WR	6'2"	200	Ft. Valley, GA	Florida
82.	Tray Matthews	DB	6'1"	190	Newnan, GA	Georgia
83.	Tim Williams	LB	6'3"	235	Baton Rouge, LA	Alabama
84.	ArDarius Stewart	ATH	6'0"	190	Fultondale, AL	Alabama
85.	Hunter Henry	TE	6'5"	238	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas
86.	Brice Ramsey	QB	6'3"	195	Kingsland, GA	Georgia
87.	Kevin Olsen	QB	6'3"	200	Wayne, NJ	Miami
88.	Justin Davis	RB	6'1"	215	Stockton, CA	USC
89.	Maurice Smith	DB	6'0"	180	Sugar Land, TX	Alabama
90.	Kelsey Griffin	DT	6'2"	292	Hoschton, GA	South Carolina
91.	Marcus Baugh	TE	6'4"	245	Riverside, CA	Ohio State
92.	Kyle Bosch	OL	6'5"	311	Wheaton, IL	Michigan
93.	Isaac Savaiinaea	LB	6'3"	230	Honolulu, HI	UCLA
94.	Isaiah Golden	DT	6'2"	320	Carthage, TX	Texas A&M
95.	Derwin Gray	OL	6'5"	290	Washington, DC	Maryland
96.	Larenz Bryant	LB	6'0"	215	Charlotte, NC	South Carolina
97.	Steve Elmer	OL	6'5"	300	Midland, MI	Notre Dame
98.	Artie Burns	DB	6'0"	183	Miami, FL	Miami
99.	Marquez North	WR	6'4"	214	Charlotte, NC	Tennessee
100.	Michael Hutchings	LB	6'2"	215	Antioch, CA	USC

The Athlon Consensus 100 is a compilation of the rankings of six major recruiting services. We regard this as a fair representation of the top players in the country. For more detailed recruiting coverage, visit athlonsports.com/recruiting.

TOP 50 RECRUITING CLASSES

presented by Wrangler

1. ALABAMA The Crimson Tide — with a record 15 Athlon Consensus 100 prospects — claim their third No. 1-rated class in six years. Bama inked four of the nation's top-13 running backs, two of the top-10 defensive linemen, three of the top-10 linebackers and the nation's No. 1 tight end.

2. OHIO STATE Urban Meyer landed 10 top-100 players in this group, once again focusing on defense. Six linemen, five defensive backs and a pair of linebackers give OSU great depth and talent on that side of the ball. Elite skill players Jalin Marshall, Dontre Wilson and Ezekiel Elliott headline the offensive class.

3. NOTRE DAME Brian Kelly's highest-rated class at Notre Dame is headlined by the superstar defensive trio of Jaylon Smith, Eddie Vanderdoes and Max Redfield. This group also features one of the best offensive line classes in the nation, highlighted by five of the nation's top 25 players at the position.

4. FLORIDA Desperate for playmakers on offense, Will Muschamp signed five wide receivers and two running backs, including elite tailback Kelvin Taylor. The nation's No. 1 defensive back, Vernon Hargreaves III, and three top-100 linebackers headline the defensive class.

5. MICHIGAN Brady Hoke's offensive line class is on par with Notre Dame's as the best in the land — five of the top-23 offensive linemen in the country signed with the Maize and Blue. Derrick Green leads a very talented three-man running back class.

6. OLE MISS An unprecedented class for the Rebels features the nation's No. 1 overall player (Robert Nkemdiche), the nation's No. 1 offensive lineman (Laremy Tunsil) and the nation's No. 1 wide receiver (Laquon Treadwell). Hugh Freeze might have signed the best class in school history.

7. LSU The class lacks the elite star power LSU fans are used to, but Les Miles did sign one of the nation's top groups of defensive linemen. Five offensive linemen, four wide receivers and two 4-star quarterbacks restock the offense.

8. TEXAS A&M A&M's deep 32-man class is one of the largest in the nation. It is headlined by elite talent at wide receiver (Ricky Seals-Jones, Sebastian Larue) and defensive line (Justin Manning, Isaiah Golden). Kevin Sumlin also landed top-flight quarterbacks Kohl Stewart and Kenny Hill.

9. UCLA Seven offensive linemen and five linebackers make up a large portion of the Pac-12's top class, but the top two rated players are defensive backs Priest Willis and Tahaan Goodman. Keep an eye on dual-threat quarterback Asiantii Woulard as well.

10. AUBURN The Tigers focused heavily on offensive skill players and the defensive line. Montravius Adams (defensive end) and Carl Lawson (defensive tackle) headline the haul, but three new quarterbacks, including Jeremy Johnson and Jason Smith, should help fix Auburn's problems under center.

11. FLORIDA STATE The Seminoles signed a balanced class that features star power on every level of the defense in lineman Demarcus Walker, linebacker Matthew Thomas and defensive back Jalen Ramsey.

12. GEORGIA This defense-heavy group features eight defensive backs, six linebackers and four defensive linemen. Top-100 quarterback Brice Ramsey and four wide receivers headline the offensive class.

13. CLEMSON The Tigers signed a versatile class that was clearly focused on the defensive side of the ball. A huge crop of defensive backs is headlined by cornerback MacKensie Alexander.

14. OKLAHOMA Running back Keith Ford is the most heralded member of a group that lacks the elite star power of Oklahoma classes in the recent past.

15. WASHINGTON Another great haul for the staff in Seattle, led by a deep and talented collection of defensive linemen and wide receivers.

16. USC Scholarship limitations kept this class small (13), but this group isn't short on talent with nine top-100 players, including the nation's No. 1 quarterback (Max Browne) and three of the top 15 defensive backs.

17. NEBRASKA One of Bo Pelini's highest-rated classes at Nebraska features a heavy focus on the trenches. The offensive line (six) and defensive line (six) account for 12 of the 26 signees.

18. SOUTH CAROLINA Eighteen of the 21 signees will play either on defense (13) or the offensive line (five). This group lacks the star power of the school's previous two or three classes, but is plenty talented.

19. TEXAS Two elite offensive linemen (Darius James and Kent Perkins) salvage a class that is considered by many to be one of Mack Brown's worst. Texas managed to sign only 15 players.

20. OREGON An offense-heavy class features star power at running back (Thomas Tyner) and wide receiver (Devon Allen), as well as the versatile Robinson twins — Tyree and Tyrell — both listed as athletes.

21. VIRGINIA TECH Frank Beamer signed the No. 3-rated class in the ACC by landing two top-100 defensive backs in Kendall Fuller and Holland Fisher. Bucky Hodges could be the quarterback of the future in Blacksburg.

22. MISSISSIPPI STATE Star defensive end Chris Jones leads a 20-man class heavy on skill players. Dan Mullen signed six wide receivers and three defensive backs.

23. VANDERBILT It's arguably the best class in Commodores history. James Franklin inked a star quarterback (Johnny McCrary) and wide receiver (Jordan Cunningham) as well as five defensive backs.

24. MIAMI Late addition Derrick Griffin moved this class into the top 25. Al Golden signed only 16 prospects but added star power at defensive end, tight end and defensive back.

25. TENNESSEE Quarterback Joshua Dobbs, wide receiver MarQuez North and defensive lineman Jason Carr headline Tennessee's first class with Butch Jones at the helm.

26. BAYLOR All but one of the Bears' 23 signees hail from the state of Texas, including star wide receiver Robbie Rhodes.

27. WEST VIRGINIA Dana Holgorsen's 25-man class was heavy on wide receivers (five), linebackers (five) and safeties (four).

28. NORTH CAROLINA This was a small class (17), but it has plenty of star power with quarterback Mitch Trubisky and running back T.J. Logan.

29. ARKANSAS Despite landing a top-30 class, the Hogs ranked 12th in the SEC. The stars are running back Alex Collins and tight end Hunter Henry.

30. OKLAHOMA STATE Mike Gundy pulled 17 of his 23 signees from Texas. This class is deep but lacks any top-100 recruits.

31. VIRGINIA	41. ARIZONA STATE
32. CAL	42. MARYLAND
33. PENN STATE	43. OREGON STATE
34. KENTUCKY	44. TCU
35. MISSOURI	45. UTAH
36. MICHIGAN STATE	46. INDIANA
37. ARIZONA	47. WASHINGTON STATE
38. WISCONSIN	48. ILLINOIS
39. PITTSBURGH	49. STANFORD
40. RUTGERS	50. KANSAS

BY POSITION

QUARTERBACKS / RUNNING BACKS / WIDE RECEIVERS
TIGHT ENDS / ATHLETES / OFFENSIVE LINEMEN
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN / LINEBACKERS / DEFENSIVE BACKS

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QUARTERBACKS

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Max Browne	6'5"	215	Sammamish, WA	11	USC
2.	Christian Hackenberg	6'3"	215	Palmyra, VA	13	Penn State
3.	Shane Morris	6'3"	183	Warren, MI	74	Michigan
4.	Cooper Bateman	6'3"	215	Murray, UT	76	Alabama
5.	Brice Ramsey	6'3"	195	Kingsland, GA	86	Georgia
6.	Kevin Olsen	6'3"	200	Wayne, NJ	87	Miami
7.	Ryan Burns	6'5"	225	Leesburg, VA	113	Stanford
8.	Troy Williams	6'2"	205	Los Angeles, CA	114	Washington
9.	Cody Thomas	6'5"	220	Colleyville, TX	118	Oklahoma
10.	Hayden Rettig	6'2"	201	Los Angeles, CA	143	LSU
11.	Mitch Trubisky	6'3"	200	Mentor, OH	150	North Carolina
12.	Tyrone Swoopes	6'4"	245	Whitewright, TX	151	Texas
13.	Asiantii Woulard	6'3"	205	Winter Park, FL	152	UCLA
14.	Jeremy Johnson	6'5"	215	Montgomery, AL	155	Auburn
15.	Joshua Dobbs	6'3"	190	Alpharetta, GA	164	Tennessee
16.	Kohl Stewart	6'2"	200	Tomball, TX	170	Texas A&M
17.	Anu Solomon	6'1"	205	Las Vegas, NV	173	Arizona
18.	J.T. Barrett	6'1"	225	Wichita Falls, TX	174	Ohio State
19.	Jason Smith	6'1"	180	Mobile, AL	180	Auburn
20.	Bucky Hodges	6'5"	230	Virginia Beach, VA	187	Virginia Tech
21.	Damion Terry	6'4"	220	Erie, PA	198	Michigan State
22.	Malik Zaire	6'1"	190	Kettering, OH	199	Notre Dame
23.	Aaron Bailey	6'2"	220	Bolingbrook, IL	215	Illinois
24.	Kenny Hill	6'1"	215	Southlake, TX	219	Texas A&M
25.	Jared Goff	6'4"	185	Kentfield, CA	224	California

MAX BROWNE
QB, USC

DERRICK HENRY
RB, ALABAMA

THOMAS TYNER
RB, OREGON

RUNNING BACKS

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Derrick Henry	6'3"	242	Yulee, FL	12	Alabama
2.	Thomas Tyner	5'11"	201	Aloha, OR	20	Oregon
3.	Kelvin Taylor	5'11"	216	Belle Glade, FL	22	Florida
4.	Keith Ford	5'11"	208	Cypress, TX	24	Oklahoma
5.	Derrick Green	5'11"	220	Richmond, VA	26	Michigan
6.	Alex Collins	5'11"	207	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	41	Arkansas
7.	Alvin Kamara	5'10"	195	Norcross, GA	42	Alabama
8.	Greg Bryant	5'11"	200	Delray Beach, FL	46	Notre Dame
9.	Ryan Green	5'10"	187	St. Petersburg, FL	51	Florida State
10.	Altee Tenpenny	6'0"	207	North Little Rock, AR	53	Alabama
11.	Ty Isaac	6'3"	225	Shorewood, IL	55	USC
12.	Taquan Mizell	5'10"	180	Virginia Beach, VA	60	Virginia
13.	Tyren Jones	5'9"	215	Marietta, GA	65	Alabama
14.	Ezekiel Elliott	6'0"	210	St. Louis, MO	69	Ohio State
15.	Justin Davis	6'1"	215	Stockton, CA	88	USC
16.	Tarean Folston	5'10"	190	Cocoa, FL	112	Notre Dame
17.	Terrell Newby	5'10"	180	West Hills, CA	123	Nebraska
18.	DeVeon Smith	5'11"	218	Warren, OH	134	Michigan
19.	Kailo Moore	5'10"	190	Rosedale, MS	138	Ole Miss
20.	Corey Clement	5'11"	210	Glassboro, NJ	139	Wisconsin
21.	T.J. Logan	5'10"	180	Greensboro, NC	157	North Carolina
22.	Tyshon Dye	6'1"	205	Elberton, GA	201	Clemson
23.	David Williams	6'1"	200	Philadelphia, PA	204	South Carolina
24.	Mark Dodson	5'10"	193	Memphis, TN	217	Ole Miss
25.	Kyle Hicks	5'10"	190	Arlington, TX	226	TCU

WIDE RECEIVERS

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Laquon Treadwell	6'3"	198	Crete, IL	14	Ole Miss
2.	Robert Foster	6'3"	187	Monaca, PA	23	Alabama
3.	Ricky Seals-Jones	6'5"	225	Sealy, TX	25	Texas A&M
4.	Robbie Rhodes	6'0"	190	Ft. Worth, TX	28	Baylor
5.	Jalin Marshall	6'0"	190	Middletown, OH	35	Ohio State
6.	Derrick Griffin	6'6"	215	Rosenberg, TX	40	Miami
7.	James Quick	6'1"	180	Louisville, KY	63	Louisville
8.	Stacy Coley	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	64	Miami
9.	Steven Mitchell	5'10"	180	Pasadena, CA	67	USC
10.	Demore'ea Stringfellow	6'3"	215	Perris, CA	79	Washington
11.	Demarcus Robinson	6'2"	200	Ft. Valley, GA	81	Florida
12.	Marquez North	6'4"	214	Charlotte, NC	99	Tennessee
13.	Alvin Bailey	5'11"	170	Seffner, FL	106	Florida
14.	Ahmad Fulwood	6'4"	200	Jacksonville, FL	126	Florida
15.	Sebastian Larue	5'11"	180	Los Angeles, CA	127	Texas A&M
16.	Levonte Whitfield	5'9"	176	Orlando, FL	142	Florida State
17.	Tony Stevens	6'3"	175	Orlando, FL	167	Auburn
18.	Torii Hunter Jr.	6'0"	180	Prosper, TX	168	Notre Dame
19.	Tyler Boyd	6'2"	185	Clairton, PA	179	Pitt
20.	Jordan Cunningham	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	182	Vanderbilt
21.	LaQuvionte Gonzalez	5'10"	165	Cedar Hill, TX	185	Texas A&M
22.	John Ross	5'11"	180	Long Beach, CA	186	Washington
23.	Earnest Robinson	6'2"	205	Pinson, AL	189	Auburn
24.	Devon Allen	6'0"	187	Phoenix, AZ	190	Oregon
25.	Jacorey Warrick	5'10"	182	Houston, TX	197	Texas
26.	Darrell Daniels	6'4"	220	Pittsburg, CA	199	Washington
27.	Shelton Gibson	6'1"	175	Cleveland Heights, OH	208	West Virginia
28.	Darren Carrington	6'2"	186	San Diego, CA	209	Oregon
29.	Jake Oliver	6'4"	205	Dallas, TX	235	Texas
30.	Eldridge Massington	6'1"	206	Mesquite, TX	–	UCLA

RICKY SEALS-JONES
WR, TEXAS A&M

JALIN MARSHALL
WR, OHIO STATE

JAMES QUICK
WR, LOUISVILLE

TIGHT ENDS

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	O.J. Howard	6'6"	235	Prattville, AL	19	Alabama
2.	Adam Breneman	6'4"	230	Cedar Cliff, PA	44	Penn State
3.	Hunter Henry	6'5"	238	Little Rock, AR	85	Arkansas
4.	Marcus Baugh	6'4"	245	Riverside, CA	91	Ohio State
5.	DeSean Smith	6'4"	226	Lake Charles, LA	125	LSU
6.	Standish Dobard	6'4"	255	Belle Chasse, LA	218	Miami
7.	Jake Butt	6'6"	235	Pickerington, OH	221	Michigan
8.	Durham Smythe	6'5"	230	Belton, TX	–	Notre Dame
9.	Mike Heuerman	6'4"	225	Naples, FL	–	Notre Dame
10.	Thomas Duarte	6'4"	225	Santa Ana, CA	–	UCLA

ATHLETES

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Dontre Wilson	5'10"	174	DeSoto, TX	71	Ohio State
2.	ArDarius Stewart	6'0"	180	Fultondale, AL	84	Alabama
3.	Gareon Conley	6'2"	170	Massillon, OH	116	Ohio State
4.	Tramel Terry	5'11"	190	Goose Creek, SC	117	Georgia
5.	Jeryl Brazil	5'9"	181	Loranger, LA	128	LSU
6.	Tyrell Robinson	6'4"	201	San Diego, CA	131	Oregon
7.	Jayron Kearse	6'4"	205	Ft. Myers, FL	175	Clemson
8.	Ashton Shumpert	6'2"	215	Fulton, MS	188	Mississippi State
9.	Anthony Averett	6'0"	170	Woodbury, NJ	191	Alabama
10.	Tyree Robinson	6'4"	200	San Diego, CA	212	Oregon

Marshall: Cliff Welch/Icon SMI All Others: Chris Covatta

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OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Laremy Tunsil	6'6"	320	Lake City, FL	4	Ole Miss
2.	Darius James	6'5"	319	Killeen, TX	33	Texas
3.	Kent Perkins	6'5"	300	Dallas, TX	38	Texas
4.	Dorian Johnson	6'6"	290	Belle Vernon, PA	43	Pittsburgh
5.	Ethan Pocic	6'7"	285	Lemont, IL	57	LSU
6.	Grant Hill	6'6"	301	Huntsville, AL	62	Alabama
7.	Patrick Kugler	6'5"	280	Wexford, PA	68	Michigan
8.	Evan Lisle	6'6"	290	Centerville, OH	80	Ohio State
9.	Kyle Bosch	6'5"	311	Wheaton, IL	92	Michigan
10.	Derwin Gray	6'5"	290	Washington, DC	95	Maryland
11.	Steve Elmer	6'5"	300	Midland, MI	97	Notre Dame
12.	Hunter Bivin	6'6"	290	Owensboro, KY	101	Notre Dame
13.	John Montelus	6'5"	305	Everett, MA	102	Notre Dame
14.	Khaliel Rodgers	6'3"	310	New Castle, DE	105	USC
15.	Austin Golson	6'6"	290	Prattville, AL	107	Ole Miss
16.	David Dawson	6'4"	282	Detroit, MI	109	Michigan
17.	Ira Denson	6'4"	317	Madison, FL	120	Florida State
18.	Brandan Mahon	6'4"	315	Randolph, NJ	132	Penn State
19.	Tyrone Crowder	6'2"	325	Rockingham, NC	135	Clemson
20.	Mike McGlinchey	6'7"	280	Philadelphia, PA	140	Notre Dame
21.	Josh Boutte	6'4"	324	New Iberia, LA	144	LSU
22.	Chris Fox	6'6"	297	Parker, CO	146	Michigan
23.	Logan Tuley-Tillman	6'7"	30	Peoria, IL	154	Michigan
24.	Jake Raulerson	6'5"	262	Celina, TX	161	Texas
25.	Colin McGovern	6'5"	280	New Lenox, IL	181	Notre Dame
26.	Denver Kirkland	6'5"	320	Miami, FL	184	Arkansas
27.	Christian Morris	6'6"	285	Memphis, TN	207	UCLA
28.	Shamire DeVine	6'7"	355	Atlanta, GA	214	Georgia Tech
29.	Brandon Kublanow	6'3"	290	Marietta, GA	230	Georgia
30.	Ishmael Wilson	6'4"	280	Dallas, TX	–	Texas A&M

LINEBACKERS

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Jaylon Smith	6'3"	220	Ft. Wayne, IN	2	Notre Dame
2.	Reuben Foster	6'1"	244	Auburn, AL	7	Alabama
3.	Matthew Thomas	6'3"	205	Miami, FL	8	Florida State
4.	Jonathan Allen	6'3"	264	Leesburg, VA	17	Alabama
5.	Alexander Anzalone	6'3"	220	Wyomissing, PA	54	Florida
6.	Daniel McMillian	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	56	Florida
7.	Mike Mitchell	6'4"	225	Plano, TX	58	Ohio State
8.	Kendell Beckwith	6'3"	225	Jackson, LA	77	LSU
9.	Tim Williams	6'3"	235	Baton Rouge, LA	83	Alabama
10.	Isaac Savaiinaea	6'3"	230	Honolulu, HI	93	UCLA
11.	Larenz Bryant	6'0"	215	Charlotte, NC	96	South Carolina
12.	Michael Hutchings	6'2"	215	Antioch, CA	100	USC
13.	Trey Johnson	6'2"	220	Lawrenceville, GA	111	Ohio State
14.	Dorian O'Daniel	6'1"	205	Olney, MD	121	Clemson
15.	Deoundrei Davis	6'3"	215	Cypress, TX	130	Texas
16.	Myles Jack	6'3"	230	Bellevue, WA	137	UCLA
17.	Peter Kalambayi	6'3"	240	Matthews, NC	145	Stanford
18.	Ben Boulware	6'1"	230	Anderson, SC	149	Clemson
19.	Mike McCray	6'4"	230	Trotwood, OH	148	Michigan
20.	Matt Rolin	6'4"	205	Ashburn, VA	153	Florida
21.	Yannick Ngakoue	6'2"	228	Bowie, MD	160	Maryland
22.	Tim Kimbrough	6'1"	226	Indianapolis, IN	166	Georgia
23.	Quinton Powell	6'2"	220	Deltona, FL	172	USC
24.	Deon Hollins	6'2"	222	Missouri City, TX	178	UCLA
25.	E.J. Levenberry	6'3"	230	Woodbridge, VA	183	Florida State
26.	Doug Randolph	6'3"	230	Richmond, VA	203	Notre Dame
27.	Torrodney Prevot	6'3"	214	Houston, TX	202	Oregon
28.	Jermaine Grace	6'1"	210	Miami Gardens, FL	220	Miami
29.	Jon Reschke	6'2"	230	Sterling Heights, MI	223	Michigan State
30.	Marcus Newby	6'1"	210	North Potomac, MD	228	Nebraska

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Robert Nkemdiche	6'5"	270	Loganville, GA	1	Ole Miss
2.	Eddie Vanderdoes	6'3"	285	Auburn, CA	6	Notre Dame
3.	Kenny Bigelow	6'3"	295	Elkton, MD	9	USC
4.	Montravius Adams	6'3"	315	Vienna, GA	10	Auburn
5.	Chris Jones	6'5"	250	Houston, MS	18	Mississippi State
6.	Carl Lawson	6'2"	250	Alpharetta, GA	21	Auburn
7.	A'Shawn Robinson	6'4"	320	Ft. Worth, TX	34	Alabama
8.	DeMarcus Walker	6'3"	265	Jacksonville, FL	36	Florida State
9.	Joey Bosa	6'5"	270	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	37	Ohio State
10.	Dee Liner	6'3"	281	Muscle Shoals, AL	47	Alabama
11.	Al-Quadin Muhammad	6'3"	230	Irvington, NJ	48	Miami
12.	Elijah Daniel	6'4"	250	Avon, IN	50	Auburn
13.	Frank Herron	6'5"	245	Memphis, TN	70	LSU
14.	Greg Gilmore	6'4"	275	Hope Mills, NC	73	LSU
15.	Justin Manning	6'1"	270	Dallas, TX	75	Texas A&M
16.	Kelsey Griffin	6'2"	292	Hoschton, GA	90	South Carolina
17.	Isaiah Golden	6'2"	320	Carthage, TX	94	Texas A&M
18.	Kyle Fitts	6'4"	260	Redlands, CA	103	UCLA
19.	Elijah Qualls	6'2"	285	Petaluma, CA	110	Washington
20.	Wyatt Teller	6'5"	250	Bealeton, VA	115	Virginia Tech
21.	Caleb Brantley	6'3"	304	Crescent City, FL	119	Florida
22.	Henry Poggi	6'4"	260	Baltimore, MD	122	Michigan
23.	Darius Paige	6'4"	314	Foley, AL	129	Alabama
24.	Daeshon Hall	6'6"	225	Lancaster, TX	136	Texas A&M
25.	Taco Charlton	6'6"	249	Pickerington, OH	141	Michigan
26.	Greg Webb	6'2"	310	Erial, NJ	156	North Carolina
27.	Isaac Rochell	6'5"	265	McDonough, GA	158	Notre Dame
28.	D.J. Ward	6'2"	245	Moore, OK	165	Oklahoma
29.	Andrew Billings	6'0"	305	Waco, TX	171	Baylor
30.	Garrett Sickels	6'4"	238	Little Silver, NJ	176	Penn State
31.	Jason Hatcher	6'3"	250	Louisville, KY	177	Kentucky
32.	Jason Carr	6'5"	260	Memphis, TN	192	Tennessee
33.	Dajaun Drennon	6'4"	230	Clementon, NJ	196	North Carolina
34.	Ebenezer Ogundeko	6'3"	230	Brooklyn, NY	205	Clemson
35.	Christian Lacouture	6'5"	290	Lincoln, NE	206	LSU
36.	Maquedius Bain	6'5"	286	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	210	LSU
37.	Takkarist McKinley	6'3"	240	Richmond, CA	211	Cal
38.	Tashawn Bower	6'5"	241	Somerville, NJ	213	LSU
39.	Keith Bryant	6'2"	306	Delray Beach, FL	216	Florida State
40.	Maurice Hurst Jr.	6'2"	305	Westwood, MA	222	Michigan

DEFENSIVE BACKS

	Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1.	Vernon Hargreaves III	5'11"	185	Tampa, FL	3	Florida
2.	Su'a Cravens	6'3"	215	Murrieta, CA	5	USC
3.	Jalen Ramsey	6'0"	189	Nashville, TN	15	Florida State
4.	Kendall Fuller	5'11"	180	Baltimore, MD	16	Virginia Tech
5.	Vonn Bell	6'1"	190	Rossville, GA	27	Ohio State
6.	Max Redfield	6'2"	195	Mission Viejo, CA	29	Notre Dame
7.	Macensie Alexander	5'11"	185	Immokalee, FL	30	Clemson
8.	Leon McQuay III	6'2"	185	Seffner, FL	31	USC
9.	Tony Conner	6'2"	205	Batesville, MS	32	Ole Miss
10.	Priest Willis	6'2"	200	Tempe, AZ	39	UCLA
11.	Tre'Davious White	5'10"	170	Shreveport, LA	45	LSU
12.	Eli Apple	6'0"	184	Voorhees, NJ	49	Ohio State
13.	Chris Hawkins	6'0"	170	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	52	USC
14.	Holland Fisher	6'2"	200	Richmond, VA	59	Virginia Tech
15.	Cam Burrows	5'11"	200	Trotwood, OH	61	Ohio State
16.	Tahaan Goodman	6'2"	190	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	66	UCLA
17.	Dymonte Thomas	6'2"	195	Alliance, OH	72	Michigan
18.	Marcell Harris	6'2"	220	Orlando, FL	78	Florida
19.	Tray Matthews	6'0"	190	Newnan, GA	82	Georgia
20.	Maurice Smith	6'0"	180	Sugar Land, TX	89	Alabama
21.	Artie Burns	6'0"	183	Miami, FL	98	Miami
22.	Keanu Neal	6'0"	203	Bushnell, FL	104	Florida
23.	Jourdan Lewis	5'10"	159	Detroit, MI	108	Michigan
24.	Shaq Wiggins	5'10"	160	Tyrone, GA	124	Georgia
25.	Cole Luke	6'0"	180	Chandler, AZ	133	Notre Dame
26.	Johnny Johnson	5'10"	180	Fresno, CA	147	UCLA
27.	Stanvon Taylor	5'11"	175	Tulsa, OK	158	Oklahoma
28.	Antwuan Davis	5'11"	192	Bastrop, TX	163	Texas
29.	Hatari Byrd	6'1"	195	Fresno, CA	162	Oklahoma
30.	Tyler Foreman	6'2"	190	Encino, CA	169	UCLA
31.	Rashard Robinson	6'1"	163	Pompano Beach, FL	193	LSU
32.	Brian Walker	5'11"	175	Charlotte, NC	194	North Carolina
33.	Kameron Miles	6'1"	215	Mesquite, TX	195	Texas A&M
34.	Tim Harris	6'2"	190	Richmond, VA	225	Virginia
35.	Rashard Fant	5'10"	165	Atlanta, GA	233	Indiana
36.	Brandan Langley	6'1"	180	Marietta, GA	--	Georgia
37.	Nick Washington	5'11"	170	Jacksonville, FL	--	Florida
38.	Jayme Thompson	6'2"	185	Toledo, OH	--	Ohio State
39.	Reggie Wilkerson	5'11"	165	Citra, FL	--	Georgia
40.	Noel Ellis	5'10"	175	New Orleans, LA	--	Texas A&M

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ACC

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Matthew Thomas	LB	6'3"	205	Miami, FL	Florida State
2.	Jalen Ramsey	DB	6'0"	189	Nashville, TN	Florida State
3.	Kendall Fuller	DB	5'11"	180	Baltimore, MD	Virginia Tech
4.	MacKensie Alexander	DB	5'11"	185	Immokalee, FL	Clemson
5.	Demarcus Walker	DL	6'3"	265	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
6.	Derrick Griffin	WR	6'5"	220	Rosenberg, TX	Miami
7.	Dorian Johnson	OL	6'6"	270	Belle Vernon, PA	Pitt
8.	Al-Quadin Muhammad	DL	6'3"	230	Irvington, NJ	Miami
9.	Ryan Green	RB	5'10"	187	St. Petersburg, FL	Florida State
10.	Holland Fisher	DB	6'2"	200	Richmond, VA	Virginia Tech
11.	Taquan Mizell	RB	5'10"	185	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia
12.	Stacy Coley	WR	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Miami
13.	Kevin Olsen	QB	6'3"	200	Wayne, NJ	Miami
14.	Derwin Gray	OL	6'5"	290	Washington, DC	Maryland
15.	Artie Burns	DB	6'0"	183	Miami, FL	Miami
16.	Wyatt Teller	DL	6'5"	250	Bealeton, VA	Virginia Tech
16.	Ira Denson	OL	6'4"	317	Madison, FL	Florida State
18.	Dorian O'Daniel	LB	6'1"	205	Olney, MD	Clemson
19.	Tyrone Crowder	OL	6'2"	325	Rockingham, NC	Clemson
20.	Levonte Whitfield	WR	5'9"	176	Orlando, FL	Florida State
21.	Ben Boulware	LB	6'1"	230	Anderson, SC	Clemson
22.	Mitch Trubisky	QB	6'3"	200	Mentor, OH	North Carolina
23.	Greg Webb	DL	6'2"	310	Erial, NJ	North Carolina
24	T.J. Logan	RB	5'10"	180	Greensboro, NC	North Carolina
25.	Yannick Ngakoue	LB	6'2"	228	Bowie, MD	Maryland
26.	Jayron Kearse	ATH	6'4"	205	Ft. Myers, FL	Clemson
27.	Tyler Boyd	WR	6'2"	185	Clairton, PA	Pitt
28.	E.J. Levenberry	LB	6'3"	230	Woodbridge, VA	Florida State
29.	Bucky Hodges	QB	6'5"	230	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia Tech
30.	Brian Walker	DB	5'11"	175	Charlotte, NC	North Carolina
31.	Dajaun Drennon	DL	6'4"	230	Clementon, NJ	North Carolina
32.	Tyshon Dye	RB	6'1"	205	Elberton, GA	Clemson
34.	Ebenezer Ogundeko	DL	6'3"	230	Brooklyn, NY	Clemson
35.	Shamire DeVine	OL	6'7"	355	Atlanta, GA	Georgia Tech
35.	Keith Bryant	DL	6'2"	306	Delray Beach, FL	Florida State
36.	Standish Dobard	TE	6'4"	255	Belle Chasse, LA	Miami
37.	Jermaine Grace	LB	6'1"	210	Miami Gardens, FL	Miami
38.	Tim Harris	DB	6'2"	190	Richmond, VA	Virginia
39.	Corn Elder	ATH	5'10"	170	Nashville, TN	Miami
40.	Isaiah Jones	WR	6'4"	210	Milton, FL	Florida State

JALEN RAMSEY
DB, FSU

KENDALL FULLER
DB, VIRGINIA TECH

KENT PERKINS
OL, TEXAS

ACC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Florida State
2. Clemson
3. Virginia Tech
4. Miami
5. North Carolina
6. Virginia
7. Pittsburgh
8. Maryland
9. NC State
10. Wake Forest
11. Duke
12. Syracuse
13. Georgia Tech
14. Boston College

BIG TEN

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Christian Hackenberg	QB	6'3"	215	Palmyra, VA	Penn State
2.	Derrick Green	RB	5'11"	220	Richmond, VA	Michigan
3.	Vonn Bell	DB	6'1"	190	Rossville, GA	Ohio State
4.	Jalin Marshall	WR	6'0"	190	Middletown, OH	Ohio State
5.	Joey Bosa	DL	6'5"	270	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ohio State
6.	Adam Breneman	TE	6'4"	230	Cedar Cliff, PA	Penn State
7.	Eli Apple	DB	6'0"	184	Voorhees, NJ	Ohio State
8.	Mike Mitchell	LB	6'4"	225	Plano, TX	Ohio State
9.	Cam Burrows	DB	5'11"	200	Trotwood, OH	Ohio State
10.	Patrick Kugler	OL	6'5"	280	Wexford, PA	Michigan
11.	Ezekiel Elliott	RB	6'0"	210	St. Louis, MO	Ohio State
12.	Dontre Wilson	ATH	5'10"	174	DeSoto, TX	Ohio State
13.	Dymonte Thomas	DB	6'2"	195	Alliance, OH	Michigan
14.	Shane Morris	QB	6'3"	183	Warren, MI	Michigan
15.	Evan Lisle	OL	6'6"	290	Centerville, OH	Ohio State
16.	Marcus Baugh	TE	6'4"	245	Riverside, CA	Ohio State
17.	Kyle Bosch	OL	6'5"	310	Wheaton, IL	Michigan
18.	Jourdan Lewis	DB	5'10"	160	Detroit, MI	Michigan
19.	David Dawson	OL	6'4"	285	Detroit, MI	Michigan
20.	Trey Johnson	LB	6'2"	220	Lawrenceville, GA	Ohio State
21.	Gareon Conley	ATH	6'2"	170	Massillon, OH	Ohio State
22.	Henry Poggi	DL	6'4"	260	Baltimore, MD	Michigan
23.	Terrell Newby	RB	5'10"	180	West Hills, CA	Nebraska
24.	Brandan Mahon	OL	6'4"	315	Randolph, NJ	Penn State
25.	De'Veon Smith	RB	5'11"	218	Warren, OH	Michigan
26.	Corey Clement	RB	5'11"	210	Glassboro, NJ	Wisconsin
27.	Taco Charlton	DL	6'6"	249	Pickerington, OH	Michigan
28.	Chris Fox	OL	6'6"	297	Parker, CO	Michigan
29.	Mike McCray	LB	6'4"	230	Trotwood, OH	Michigan
30.	Logan Tuley-Tillman	OL	6'7"	307	Peoria, IL	Michigan
31.	J.T. Barrett	QB	6'1"	225	Wichita Falls, TX	Ohio State
32.	Garrett Sickels	DL	6'4"	238	Little Silver, NJ	Penn State
33.	Damion Terry	QB	6'4"	220	Erie, PA	Michigan State
34.	Aaron Bailey	QB	6'2"	220	Bolingbrook, IL	Illinois
35.	Jake Butt	TE	6'6"	235	Pickerington, OH	Michigan
36.	Maurice Hurst Jr.	DL	6'2"	305	Westwood, MA	Michigan
37.	Jon Reschke	LB	6'2"	230	Sterling Heights, MI	Michigan State
38.	Marcus Newby	LB	6'1"	210	North Potomac, MD	Nebraska
39.	Michael Hill	DL	6'2"	215	Pendleton, SC	Ohio State
40.	Rashard Fant	DB	5'10"	165	Atlanta, GA	Indiana

BIG TEN TEAM RANKINGS

1. Ohio State
2. Michigan
3. Nebraska
4. Penn State
5. Michigan State
6. Wisconsin
7. Indiana
8. Illinois
9. Northwestern
10. Iowa
11. Purdue
12. Minnesota

BIG 12

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Keith Ford	RB	5'11"	208	Cypress, TX	Oklahoma
2.	Robbie Rhodes	WR	6'0"	185	Ft. Worth, TX	Baylor
3.	Darius James	OL	6'5"	319	Killeen, TX	Texas
4.	Kent Perkins	OL	6'5"	300	Dallas, TX	Texas
5.	Cody Thomas	QB	6'5"	220	Colleyville, TX	Oklahoma
6.	Deoundrei Davis	LB	6'3"	215	Cypress, TX	Texas
7.	Tyrone Swoopes	QB	6'4"	245	Whitewright, TX	Texas
8.	Stanvon Taylor	DB	5'11"	175	Tulsa, OK	Oklahoma
9.	Jake Raulerson	OL	6'5"	262	Celina, TX	Texas
10.	Antwuan Davis	DB	5'11"	192	Bastrop, TX	Texas
11.	Hatari Byrd	DB	6'1"	195	Fresno, CA	Oklahoma
12.	D.J. Ward	DL	6'2"	245	Moore, OK	Oklahoma
13.	Andrew Billings	DL	6'0"	305	Waco, TX	Baylor
14.	Jacorey Warrick	WR	5'10"	182	Houston, TX	Texas
15.	Shelton Gibson	WR	6'1"	175	Cleveland Heights, OH	West Virginia
16.	Kyle Hicks	RB	5'10"	190	Arlington, TX	TCU
17.	Jake Oliver	WR	6'4"	205	Dallas, TX	Texas
18.	Ra'Shaad Samples	WR	5'11"	170	Dallas, TX	Oklahoma State
19.	Kerrick Huggins	DL	6'3"	289	Dallas, TX	Oklahoma
20.	L.J. Moore	DB	6'1"	175	Fresno, CA	Oklahoma
21.	Marcell Ateman	WR	6'4"	190	Dallas, TX	Oklahoma State
22.	Matt Dimon	DL	6'2"	252	Katy, TX	Oklahoma
23.	Rami Hammad	OL	6'5"	320	Irving, TX	Texas
24.	Naim Mustafaa	DL	6'4"	235	College Park, GA	Oklahoma State
25.	Vincent Taylor	DL	6'3"	278	San Antonio, TX	Oklahoma State
26.	Jake Campos	OL	6'7"	260	West Des Moines, IA	Iowa State
27.	Chris Johnson	QB	6'4"	190	Bryan, TX	Baylor
28.	Darrien Howard	LB	6'2"	250	Dayton, OH	West Virginia
29.	Tevin Lawson	DL	6'4"	275	Denham Springs, LA	TCU
30.	Devin Lauderdale	WR	5'11"	170	Houston, TX	Texas Tech

BIG 12 TEAM RANKINGS

1. Oklahoma
2. Texas
3. Baylor
4. West Virginia
5. Oklahoma State
6. TCU
7. Kansas
8. Texas Tech
9. Iowa State
10. Kansas State

Willis: Cliff Welch/Icon SMI ; Nkemdiche: Mark LoMoglio/Icon SMI; All Others: Chris Covatta

Wrangler

Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

PAC-12

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Su'a Cravens	DB	6'3"	215	Murrieta, CA	USC
2.	Kenny Bigelow	DL	6'3"	295	Elkton, MD	USC
3.	Max Browne	QB	6'5"	215	Sammamish, WA	USC
4.	Thomas Tyner	RB	5'11"	201	Aloha, OR	Oregon
5.	Leon McQuay III	DB	6'2"	185	Seffner, FL	USC
6.	Priest Willis	DB	6'2"	185	Tempe, AZ	UCLA
7.	Chris Hawkins	DB	6'0"	170	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	USC
8.	Ty Isaac	RB	6'3"	225	Shorewood, IL	USC
9.	Tahaan Goodman	DB	6'2"	190	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	UCLA
10.	Steven Mitchell	WR	5'10"	180	Pasadena, CA	USC
11.	Demore'ea Stringfellow	WR	6'3"	215	Perris, CA	Washington
12.	Justin Davis	RB	6'1"	215	Stockton, CA	USC
13.	Isaac Savaiinaea	LB	6'3"	230	Honolulu, HI	UCLA
14.	Michael Hutchings	LB	6'2"	215	Antioch, CA	USC
15.	Kyle Fitts	DL	6'4"	260	Redlands, CA	UCLA
16.	Khaliel Rodgers	OL	6'3"	310	New Castle, DE	USC
17.	Elijah Qualls	DL	6'2"	285	Petaluma, CA	Washington
18.	Ryan Burns	QB	6'5"	225	Leesburg, VA	Stanford
19.	Troy Williams	QB	6'2"	205	Los Angeles, CA	Washington
20.	Tyrell Robinson	ATH	6'4"	201	San Diego, CA	Oregon
21.	Myles Jack	LB	6'3"	230	Bellevue, WA	UCLA
22.	Peter Kalambayi	LB	6'3"	240	Matthews, NC	Stanford
23.	Johnny Johnson	DB	5'10"	180	Fresno, CA	UCLA
24.	Asiantii Woulard	QB	6'3"	205	Winter Park, FL	UCLA
25.	Tyler Foreman	DB	6'2"	190	Encino, CA	UCLA
26.	Quinton Powell	LB	6'2"	220	Deltona, FL	USC
27.	Anu Solomon	QB	6'1"	205	Las Vegas, NV	Arizona
28.	Deon Hollins	LB	6'2"	222	Missouri City, TX	UCLA
29.	John Ross	WR	5'11"	180	Long Beach, CA	Washington
30.	Devon Allen	WR	6'0"	187	Phoenix, AZ	Oregon
31.	Darrell Daniels	WR	6'4"	220	Pittsburg, CA	Washington
32.	Torrodney Prevot	LB	6'3"	214	Houston, TX	Oregon
33.	Christian Morris	OL	6'6"	285	Memphis, TN	UCLA
34.	Darren Carrington	WR	6'2"	186	San Diego, CA	Oregon
35.	Takkarist McKinley	DL	6'3"	240	Richmond, CA	Cal
36.	Tyree Robinson	ATH	6'4"	200	San Diego, CA	Oregon
37.	Jared Goff	QB	6'4"	185	Kentfield, CA	Cal
38.	Joe Mathis	DL	6'4"	250	Ontoario, CA	Washington
39.	Chans Cox	LB	6'3"	230	Lakeside, AZ	Arizona State
40.	Eldridge Massington	WR	6'1"	206	Mesquite, TX	UCLA

PAC-12 TEAM RANKINGS

1. UCLA
2. Washington
3. USC
4. Oregon
5. Cal
6. Arizona
7. Arizona State
8. Oregon State
9. Utah
10. Washington State
11. Stanford
12. Colorado

SU'A CRAVENS
DB, USC

TAHAAN GOODMAN
DB, UCLA

DEMARCUS ROBINSON
WR, FLORIDA

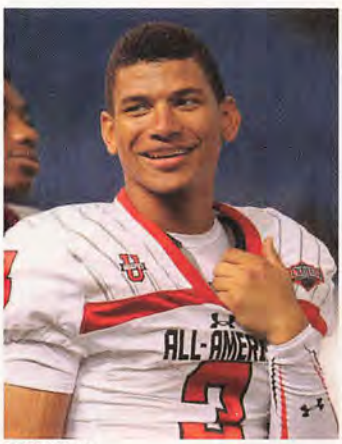
SEC

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Robert Nkemdiche	DL	6'5"	270	Loganville, GA	Ole Miss
2.	Vernon Hargreaves III	DB	5'11"	185	Tampa, FL	Florida
3.	Laremy Tunsil	OL	6'6"	320	Lake City, FL	Ole Miss
4.	Reuben Foster	LB	6'1"	244	Auburn, AL	Alabama
5.	Montravius Adams	DL	6'3"	315	Vienna, GA	Auburn
6.	Derrick Henry	RB	6'3"	242	Yulee, FL	Alabama
7.	Laquon Treadwell	WR	6'3"	198	Crete, IL	Ole Miss
8.	Jonathan Allen	LB	6'3"	264	Leesburg, VA	Alabama
9.	Chris Jones	DL	6'5"	250	Houston, MS	Mississippi State
10.	O.J. Howard	TE	6'6"	235	Prattville, AL	Alabama
11.	Carl Lawson	DL	6'2"	250	Alpharetta, GA	Auburn
12.	Kelvin Taylor	RB	5'10"	205	Belle Glade, FL	Florida
13.	Robert Foster	WR	6'3"	187	Monaca, PA	Alabama
14.	Ricky Seals-Jones	WR	6'5"	225	Sealy, TX	Texas A&M
15.	Tony Conner	DB	6'2"	216	Batesville, MS	Ole Miss
16.	A'Shawn Robinson	DL	6'4"	320	Ft. Worth, TX	Alabama
17.	Alex Collins	RB	5'11"	207	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Arkansas
18.	Alvin Kamara	RB	5'10"	195	Norcross, GA	Alabama
19.	Tre'Davious White	DB	5'10"	170	Shreveport, LA	LSU
20.	Dee Liner	DL	6'3"	281	Muscle Shoals, AL	Alabama
21.	Elijah Daniel	DL	6'4"	250	Avon, IN	Auburn
22.	Altee Tenpenny	RB	6'0"	207	North Little Rock, AR	Alabama
23.	Alexander Anzalone	LB	6'3"	220	Wyomissing, PA	Florida
24.	Daniel McMillian	LB	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
25.	Ethan Pocic	OL	6'7"	285	Lemont, IL	LSU
26.	Grant Hill	OL	6'6"	301	Huntsville, AL	Alabama
27.	Tyren Jones	RB	5'9"	215	Marietta, GA	Alabama
28.	Frank Herron	DL	6'5"	245	Memphis, TN	LSU
29.	Greg Gilmore	DL	6'4"	275	Hope Mills, NC	LSU
30.	Justin Manning	DL	6'1"	270	Dallas, TX	Texas A&M
31.	Cooper Bateman	QB	6'3"	215	Murray, UT	Alabama
32.	Kendell Beckwith	LB	6'3"	225	Jackson, LA	LSU
33.	Marcell Harris	DB	6'2"	220	Orlando, FL	Florida
34.	Demarcus Robinson	WR	6'2"	200	Ft. Valley, GA	Florida
35.	Tray Matthews	DB	6'0"	190	Newnan, GA	Georgia
36.	Tim Williams	LB	6'3"	235	Baton Rouge, LA	Alabama
37.	ArDarius Stewart	ATH	6'0"	190	Fultondale, AL	Alabama
38.	Hunter Henry	TE	6'5"	238	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas
39.	Brice Ramsey	QB	6'3"	195	Kingsland, GA	Georgia
40.	Maurice Smith	DB	6'0"	180	Sugar Land, TX	Alabama
41.	Kelsey Griffin	DL	6'2"	292	Hoschton, GA	South Carolina
42.	Isaiah Golden	DL	6'2"	320	Carthage, TX	Texas A&M
43.	Larenz Bryant	LB	6'0"	215	Charlotte, NC	South Carolina
44.	Marquez North	WR	6'4"	214	Charlotte, NC	Tennessee
45.	Keanu Neal	DB	6'1"	203	Bushnell, FL	Florida
46.	Alvin Bailey	WR	6'0"	170	Seffner, FL	Florida
47.	Austin Golson	OL	6'6"	290	Prattville, AL	Ole Miss
48.	Tramel Terry	WR	5'11"	195	Goose Creek, SC	Georgia
49.	Caleb Brantley	DL	6'3"	304	Crescent City, FL	Florida
50.	Shaq Wiggins	DB	5'10"	168	Tyrone, GA	Georgia

SEC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Alabama
2. Florida
3. Ole Miss
4. LSU
5. Texas A&M
6. Auburn
7. Georgia
8. South Carolina
9. Mississippi State
10. Vanderbilt
11. Tennessee
12. Arkansas
13. Kentucky
14. Missouri

FRANK HERRON
DL, LSU



PRIEST WILLIS
DB, UCLA

ROBERT NKEMDICHE
DL, OLE MISS

BY CONFERENCE

ACC / BIG TEN / BIG 12 / PAC 12/ SEC
AMERICAN / C-USA / MAC / MOUNTAIN WEST
SUN BELT

presented by Wrangler

AMERICAN

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	James Quick	WR	6'1"	180	Louisville, KY	Louisville
2.	Nadir Barnwell	DB	5'11"	190	Piscataway, NJ	Rutgers
3.	Kyle Bolin	QB	6'3"	185	Lexington, KY	Louisville
4.	Travis Johnson	TE	6'4"	225	Tampa, FL	Cincinnati
5.	Dorian Miller	OL	6'3"	295	Metuchen, NJ	Rutgers
6.	Lamar Robbins	DB	6'3"	188	Miami, FL	USF
7.	Derrick Calloway	DL	6'1"	300	Bradenton, FL	USF
8.	Stacy Thomas	DL	6'2"	235	Miami, FL	Louisville
9.	Richard Benjamin	DB	6'1"	195	Tampa, FL	Louisville
10.	De'Asian Richardson	DL	6'2"	285	Jacksonville, FL	Louisville
11.	Buddy Brown	LB	6'3"	205	Williamstown, NJ	Temple
12.	Deadrin Senat	DL	6'1"	311	Immokalee, FL	USF
13.	Chucky Williams	CB	6'2"	180	Hialeah, FL	Louisville
14.	Tim Boyle	QB	6'3"	215	Middlefield, CT	UConn
15.	Myles Nash	LB	6'5"	205	Sicklerville, NJ	Rutgers

AMERICAN TEAM RANKINGS

1. Rutgers
2. Louisville
3. South Florida
4. Houston
5. Cincinnati
6. Connecticut
7. SMU
8. UCF
9. Memphis
10. Temple

C-USA

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Devaris Brunson	LB	6'0"	210	Lake City, SC	East Carolina
2.	Michael Johnson	DB	5'10"	170	Miami, FL	Marshall
3.	Rob Boyd	OL	6'3"	295	Vian, OK	Tulsa
4.	Kenneth Santa Marina	OL	6'5"	305	New Orleans, LA	Tulane
5.	Jeremiah Benjamin	LB	6'2"	230	Hollywood, FL	Marshall
6.	Dalton Rodriguez	DL	6'6"	250	Tulas, OK	Tulsa
7.	Christopher Robinson	DL	6'2"	265	Shreveport, LA	Southern Miss
8.	De'Andre Wilson	DB	5'9"	170	Myrtle Beach, SC	Marshall
9.	Tristan Mumford	LB	6'1"	225	Statesville, NC	East Carolina
10.	Kamani Thomas	RB	5'9"	195	Dallas, GA	Middle Tennessee

C-USA TEAM RANKINGS

1. Marshall
2. East Carolina
3. Southern Miss
4. Tulsa
5. Tulane
6. Louisiana Tech
7. FAU
8. Middle Tennessee
9. UAB
10. Rice
11. UTSA
12. FIU
13. North Texas
14. UTEP

MAC

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Rodney Adams	WR	6'1"	172	St. Petersburg, FL	Toledo
2.	Delando Johnson	DB	6'2"	190	Baltimore, MD	Toledo
3.	Brogan Roback	QB	6'4"	185	Maumee, OH	Eastern Michigan
4.	Shannon Smith	DL	6'2"	280	Chicago, IL	Bowling Green
5.	Lorenzo Woodley	RB	6'0"	210	Miami, FL	UMass
6.	Jordan Martin	DB	6'2"	200	Upper Marlboro, MD	Toledo
7.	Aregeros Turner	ATH	5'10"	170	Copley, OH	Northern Illinois
8.	Fred Coppet	RB	5'9"	180	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Bowling Green
9.	Darius Holiday	DL	6'5"	260	Miramar, FL	Bowling Green
10.	Mike Rogers	WR	6'1"	185	Ft. Wayne, IN	Bowling Green

MAC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Toledo
2. Bowling Green
3. Central Michigan
4. Northern Illinois
5. Massachusetts
6. Miami-Ohio
7. Western Michigan
8. Akron
9. Eastern Michigan
10. Ball State
11. Kent State
12. Ohio
13. Buffalo

MOUNTAIN WEST

	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Zack Greenlee	QB	6'1"	183	Stockton, CA	Fresno State
2.	Aaron Baltazar	RB	5'11"	185	Chula Vista, CA	Boise State
3.	Julius Wilson	WR	6'0"	175	Culver City, CA	San Diego State
4.	Ryan Finley	QB	6'4"	185	Phoenix, AZ	Boise State
5.	Tanner Vallejo	LB	6'1"	230	Grass Valley, CA	Boise State
6.	D.J. Moffitt	LB	6'2"	205	Livermore, CA	UNLV
7.	Kendal Keys	WR	6'2"	190	San Diego, CA	Boise State
8.	Nick Siler	OL	6'4"	250	Henderson, TX	Air Force
9.	Tere Calloway	ATH	5'11"	180	Seattle, WA	Nevada
10.	Darryl Richardson	QB	6'5"	230	Seffner, FL	San Diego State

MOUNTAIN WEST TEAM RANKINGS

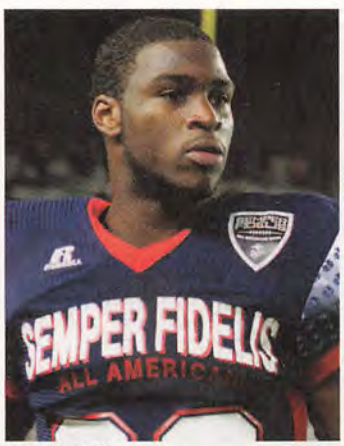
1. Boise State
2. Fresno State
3. San Diego State
4. Hawaii
5. Colorado State
6. Nevada
7. New Mexico
8. UNLV
9. Air Force
10. Utah State
11. Wyoming
12. San Jose State

SUN BELT

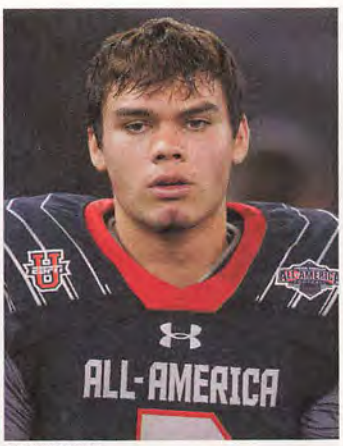
	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1.	Elijah McGuire	RB	5'11"	185	Houma, LA	ULL
2.	Joe Fennell	OL	6'4"	300	Ft. Myers, FL	Western Kentucky
3.	Kaleb Blanchard	RB	5'11"	195	Denham Springs, LA	South Alabama
4.	George Williams	LB	5'11"	220	Miami, FL	ULL
5.	Jamel James	RB	5'11"	215	Katy, TX	Texas State
6.	James Clark	LB	6'3"	200	Sebastian, FL	ULL
7.	Dila Rosemond	DB	5'10"	180	Cypress, TX	Texas State
8.	Logan Cart	DL	6'4"	300	Owensboro, KY	Arkansas State
9.	Scott Austin	WR	6'4"	180	Biloxi, MS	ULL
10.	Simeon Thomas	DB	6'3"	190	Miami, FL	ULL

SUN BELT TEAM RANKINGS

1. Louisiana-Lafayette
2. Texas State
3. Western Kentucky
4. South Alabama
5. Arkansas State
6. Troy
7. Georgia State
8. ULM



NADIR BARNWELL
DB, RUTGERS



ZACK GREENLEE
QB, FRESNO STATE

Cal Sport Media/AP Images

RISING SENIORS CLASS OF 2014

presented by Wrangler

TOP 20 QUARTERBACKS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Kyle Allen	6'2"	185	Scottsdale, AZ
Drew Barker	6'4"	210	Hebron, KY
Keller Chryst	6'3"	215	Palo Alto, CA
David Cornwell	6'5"	230	Norman, OK
Brandon Dawkins	6'3"	205	Westlake Village, CA
Chris Durkin	6'4"	215	Youngstown, OH
Quinton Flowers	6'1"	210	Miami, FL
D.J. Gillins	6'3"	185	Jacksonville, FL
Will Grier	6'3"	180	Davidson, NC
Justin Hansen	6'4"	200	Edmond, OK
Tyler Harris	6'3"	205	Blackshear, GA
Jerrod Heard	6'2"	190	Denton, TX
Caleb Henderson	6'3"	220	Burke, VA
DeShone Kizer	6'5"	210	Toledo, OH
Jacob Park	6'3"	205	Goose Creek, SC
Rafe Peavey	6'2"	215	Bolivar, MO
Clayton Thorson	6'4"	190	Wheaton, IL
Will Ulmer	6'1"	190	Washington, DC
Deshaun Watson	6'3"	200	Gainesville, GA
Manny Wilkins	6'2"	180	Novato, CA

TOP 20 RUNNING BACKS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Donald Catalon	5'11"	190	Houston, TX
Nick Chubb	5'11"	215	Cedartown, GA
Dalvin Cook	5'11"	190	Miami, FL
Leonard Fournette	6'0"	215	New Orleans, LA
Royce Freeman	5'11"	215	Imperial, CA
Jalen Hurd	6'2"	225	Hendersonville, TN
Justin Jackson	5'11"	180	Carol Stream, IL
Jeff Jones	6'0"	195	Minneapolis, MN
Christian McCaffrey	6'0"	195	Littleton, CO
Shai McKenzie	5'11"	210	Washington, PA
Sony Michel	5'11"	205	Plantation, FL
Joe Mixon	6'2"	195	Oakley, CA
Varshaun Nixon	5'9"	185	Austin, TX
Gerald Owens	6'2"	240	Westville, NJ
Derrell Scott	5'11"	175	Havelock, NC
Devon Thomas	6'0"	190	Broken Arrow, OK
Racean Thomas	5'11"	196	Oxford, AL
Mikale Wilbon	5'9"	195	Chicago, IL
Nick Wilson	5'11"	195	Fresno, CA
Joseph Yearby	5'9"	190	Miami, FL

TOP 10 TIGHT ENDS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Jeb Blazevich	6'4"	230	Charlotte, NC
Ian Bunting	6'6"	210	Hinsdale, IL
Bryce Dixon	6'4"	220	Ventura, CA
Daniel Helm	6'4"	220	Chatham, IL
Tyler Luatua	6'4"	230	La Mirada, CA
Ravian Pierce	6'4"	215	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Kalan Ritchie	6'5"	210	Goose Creek, GA
Dalton Schultz	6'5"	215	South Jordan, UT
Cannon Smith	6'5"	235	Columbia, SC
Jacory Washington	6'5"	220	Westlake, LA

TOP 20 WIDE RECEIVERS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Mark Andrews	6'6"	225	Scottsdale, AZ
Saeed Blacknall	6'2"	190	Englishtown, NJ
Dominique Booth	6'1"	195	Indianapolis, IN
Jalen Brown	6'2"	170	Phoenix, AZ
Parris Campbell	6'0"	180	Akron, OH
KD Cannon	6'0"	160	Mt. Pleasant, TX
Shaq Davidson	6'0"	170	Gaffney, SC
Malachi Dupre	6'2"	190	River Ridge, LA
Armanti Foreman	5'11"	175	Texas City, TX
Drake Harris	6'4"	180	Grand Rapids, MI
Demarre Kitt	6'1"	185	Tyrone, GA
Ermon Lane	6'3"	193	Homestead, FL
Josh Malone	6'2"	190	Gallatin, TN
Speedy Noil	5'10"	175	New Orleans, LA
Trey Quinn	6'1"	200	Lake Charles, LA
Artavis Scott	5'10"	175	Tarpon Springs, FL
Cameron Sims	6'3"	190	Monroe, LA
Dallis Todd	6'5"	210	La Mirada, CA
Trevion Thompson	6'2"	177	Durham, NC
Barry Ware	6'3"	190	Corona, CA

TOP 20 OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Andy Bauer	6'5"	305	St. Louis, MO
Mason Cole	6'4"	285	Tarpon Springs, FL
Roderick Johnson	6'6"	310	Florissant, MO
Jamarco Jones	6'5"	290	Chicago, IL
Marcelys Jones	6'5"	325	Cleveland, OH
Demetrius Knox	6'5"	300	Ft. Worth, TX
Damien Mama	6'5"	340	Bellflower, CA
Kc McDermott	6'6"	285	West Palm Beach, FL
Steven Moss	6'5"	275	Fredericksburg, VA
Sam Mustipher	6'4"	285	Olney, MD
Quenton Nelson	6'5"	285	Red Bank, NJ
Ross Pierschbacher	6'5"	285	Cedar Falls, IA
Damian Prince	6'6"	300	District Heights, MD
Cameron Robinson	6'6"	330	West Monroe, LA
Jordan Sims	6'4"	325	Birmingham, AL
Braden Smith	6'6"	290	Olathe, KS
Bentley Spain	6'6"	275	Charlotte, NC
Donell Stanley	6'4"	327	Latta, SC
Roderick Taylor	6'3"	305	Jackson, MS
Casey Tucker	6'6"	270	Chandler, AZ

TOP 15 ATHLETES

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Myles Autry	5'9"	175	Norcross, GA
Budda Baker	5'10"	170	Bellevue, WA
Adam Choice	5'9"	190	Thomasville, GA
Treon Harris	5'11"	180	Miami, FL
Dravon Henry	5'11"	185	Aliquippa, PA
Elijah Hood	5'11"	215	Charlotte, NC
Darrion Johnson	5'9"	175	Brenham, TX
Jamil Kamara	6'2"	195	Virginia Beach, VA
Allen Lazard	6'4"	195	Urbandale, IA
Jabrill Peppers	6'1"	205	Paramus, NJ
Michiah Quick	6'0"	170	Fresno, CA
Bo Scarbrough	6'2"	225	Tuscaloosa, AL
Kevin Shorter	6'0"	190	Newton, TX
John Smith	6'1"	200	Long Beach, CA
Nathan Starks	5'11"	200	Las Vegas, NV

TOP 20 DEFENSIVE ENDS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Jesse Aniebonam	6'4"	230	Olney, MD
Keyon Brown	6'3"	230	Wauchula, FL
Lorenzo Carter	6'5"	230	Norcross, GA
Deondre Clark	6'3"	230	Oklahoma City, OK
Qualen Cunningham	6'4"	220	Chandler, AZ
Garrett Dickerson	6'4"	240	Oradell, NJ
Lorenzo Featherston	6'6"	215	Greensboro, NC
Myles Garrett	6'4"	240	Arlington, TX
Da'Shawn Hand	6'5"	250	Woodbridge, VA
Dewayne Hendrix	6'5"	250	O'Fallon, IL
Jalyn Holmes	6'5"	225	Norfolk, VA
Nifae Lealao	6'2"	282	Sacramento, CA
Malik McDowell	6'6"	235	Detroit, MI
Derick Roberson	6'3"	220	San Antonio, TX
Kentavius Street	6'4"	255	Greenville, NC
Solomon Thomas	6'3"	250	Coppell, TX
Justin Thornton	6'5"	220	Prichard, AL
Denzel Ware	6'3"	220	Opp, AL
Andrew Williams	6'4"	230	McDonough, GA
Gerald Willis	6'2"	250	New Orleans, LA

TOP 15 DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Andrew Brown	6'4"	280	Chesapeake, VA
Demarcus Christmas	6'4"	290	Bradenton, FL
Khairi Clark	6'2"	325	Hollywood, FL
Josh Frazier	6'2"	325	Springdale, AR
Lamont Gaillard	6'3"	310	Fayetteville, NC
Thomas Holley	6'4"	285	Brooklyn, NY
Bijhon Jackson	6'1"	330	El Dorado, AR
Bryan Mone	6'4"	340	Salt Lake City, UT
Charles Mosley	6'4"	360	Brighton, TN
Derrick Nnadi	6'1"	305	Virginia Beach, VA
Dontavius Russell	6'3"	300	Carrollton, GA
Elisha Shaw	6'4"	295	Tucker, GA
Ainuu Taua	6'0"	270	Lompoc, CA
Travonte Valentine	6'4"	297	Palm Bay, FL
Dexter Wideman	6'4"	255	Saluda, SC

TOP 20 LINEBACKERS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Dillon Bates	6'3"	220	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Dante Booker	6'4"	210	Akron, OH
Derik Calhoun	6'0"	215	El Cerrito, CA
Ronnie Clark	6'3"	210	Calera, AL
Jamardre Cobb	6'2"	215	Los Angeles, CA
Kain Daub	6'3"	235	Jacksonville, FL
Devante Downs	6'3"	230	Mountlake Terrace, WA
Rashaan Evans	6'3"	215	Auburn, AL
Michael Ferns	6'3"	240	St. Clairsville, OH
Clifton Garrett	6'2"	228	Plainfield, IL
Raekwon McMillan	6'3"	235	Hinesville, GA
Christian Miller	6'4"	215	Columbia, SC
Nyles Morgan	6'2"	228	Crete, IL
Korie Rogers	6'1"	210	Buford, GA
Hoza Scott	6'2"	220	La Porte, TX
Marquis Ware	6'2"	215	Los Angeles, CA
Zach Whitley	6'2"	220	Houston, TX
Dwight Williams	6'1"	210	Gardena, CA
Tre' Williams	6'2"	217	Mobile, AL
Juwon Young	6'2"	230	Albany, GA

TOP 20 DEFENSIVE BACKS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown
Jamal Adams	6'0"	185	Lewisville, TX
Kalvaraz Bessent	5'11"	170	Kingsland, GA
Quin Blanding	6'2"	200	Virginia Beach, VA
Tony Brown	6'0"	185	Beaumont, TX
Cameron Denson	6'1"	170	Tucson, AZ
Wesley Green	5'10"	165	Lithonia, GA
Davion Hall	6'2"	185	Texarkana, TX
Nick Harvey	5'9"	175	Richmond, TX
Adoree' Jackson	5'11"	185	Gardena, CA
Laurence Jones	6'2"	200	Monroe, LA
Todd Kelly	6'1"	190	Knoxville, TN
Marshon Lattimore	6'0"	175	Cleveland, OH
Montae Nicholson	6'3"	200	Monroeville, PA
Edward Paris	6'1"	190	Arlington, TX
Germaine Pratt	6'3"	190	High Point, NC
D.J. Smith	6'0"	180	Marietta, GA
Dylan Sumner-Gardner	6'2"	195	Mesquite, TX
Jalen Tabor	6'1"	180	Washington, DC
Nick Watkins	6'1"	185	Dallas, TX
Damon Webb	5'11"	180	Detroit, MI

2013 BOWL PROJECTIONS

New Mexico
Pac-12 vs. MWC
Washington vs. Air Force

Famous Idaho Potato
MWC vs. MAC
Nevada vs. Bowling Green

Poinsettia
Army vs. MWC
Arizona* vs. San Diego State

Beef 'O'Brady's
American vs. C-USA
Pittsburgh* vs. Louisiana Tech

New Orleans
Sun Belt vs. C-USA
UL-Lafayette vs. Middle Tennessee

Las Vegas
Pac-12 vs. MWC
Oregon State vs. Fresno State

Hawaii
MWC vs. C-USA
San Jose State vs. East Carolina

Little Caesars Pizza
MAC vs. Big Ten
Northern Illinois vs. Minnesota

Belk
ACC vs. American
North Carolina vs. South Florida

Military
C-USA vs. ACC
Marshall vs. Maryland

Holiday
Pac-12 vs. Big 12
Arizona State vs. Kansas State

AdvoCare V100
ACC vs. SEC
NC State vs. Auburn

Russell Athletic
American vs. ACC
Cincinnati vs. Miami (Fla.)

Meineke Car Care of Texas
Big 12 vs. Big Ten
TCU vs. Indiana

Alamo
Pac-12 vs. Big 12
Stanford vs. Oklahoma

Armed Forces
Navy vs. MWC
Navy vs. Utah State

Pinstripe
American vs. Big 12
Rutgers vs. West Virginia

Music City
SEC vs. ACC
Ole Miss vs. Georgia Tech

Buffalo Wild Wings
Big 12 vs. Big Ten
Baylor vs. Northwestern

Sun
ACC vs. Pac-12
Virginia Tech vs. UCLA

Kraft Fight Hunger
BYU vs. Pac-12
BYU vs. USC

Liberty
C-USA vs. SEC
Tulsa vs. Tennessee

Chick-fil-A
SEC vs. ACC
South Carolina vs. Florida State

Heart of Dallas
C-USA vs. Big Ten
Rice vs. Texas Tech*

Capital One
SEC vs. Big Ten
Texas A&M vs. Wisconsin

Outback
SEC vs. Big Ten
Florida vs. Nebraska

Gator
SEC vs. Big Ten
Vanderbilt vs. Michigan State

Cotton
Big 12 vs. SEC
Texas vs. LSU

BBVA Compass
SEC vs. American
Mississippi State vs. UCF*

GoDaddy.com
Sun Belt vs. MAC
ULM vs. Ball State

BCS BOWLS

Rose // Michigan vs. Oregon
Fiesta // Oklahoma State vs. Boise State
Sugar // Georgia vs. Louisville
Orange // Clemson vs. Notre Dame
National Title // Alabama vs. Ohio State

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

* According to our projections, Army, the Big Ten and the American will fail to fill their allotted slots.

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